shôjo

Please Save My Earth™

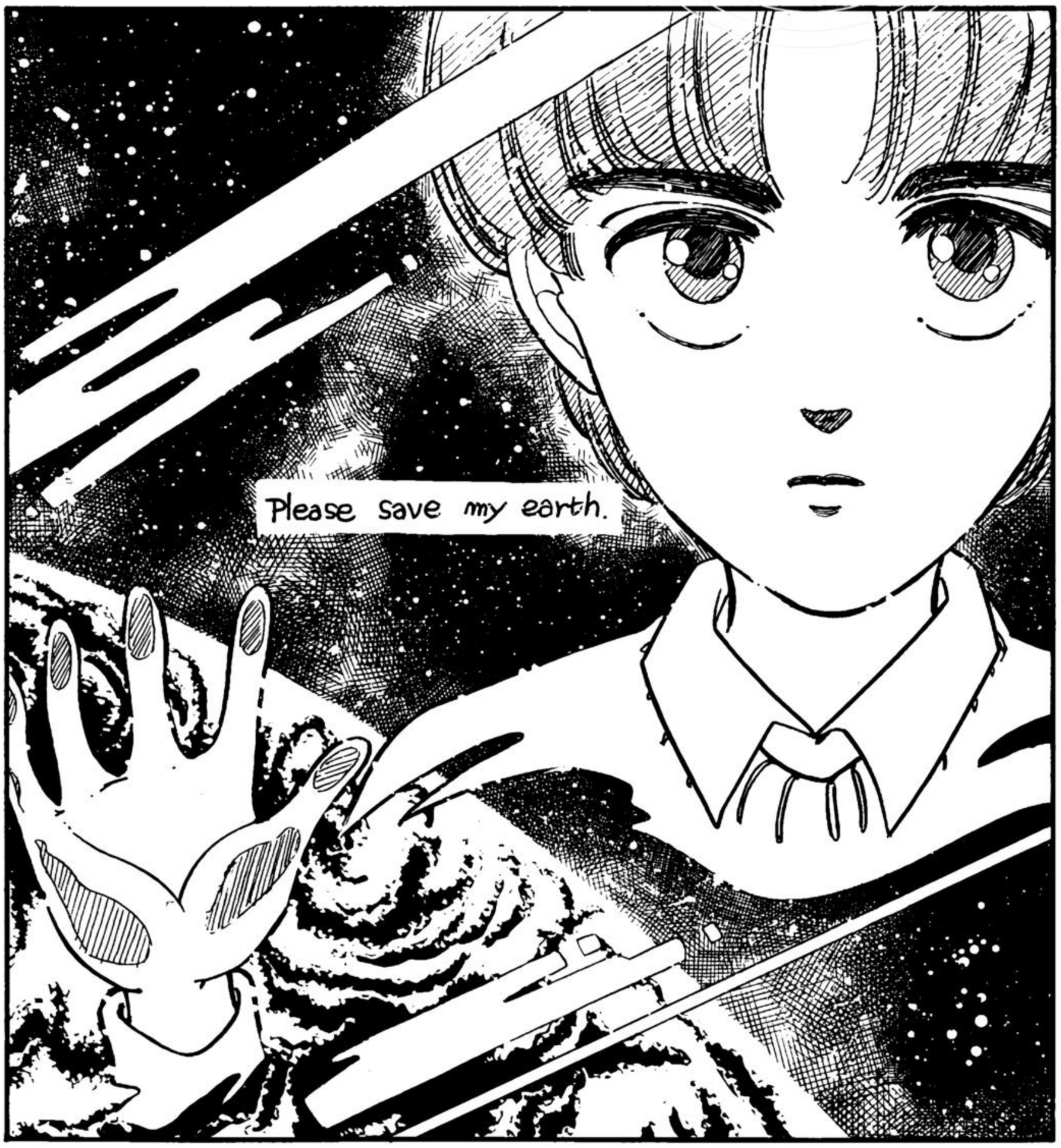
Story & Art by Saki Hiwatari

Vol. 1

Please Save My Earth™

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Vol. #1
Shôjo Edition

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Please save my earth.

THE MOON...

...FULL AND BRIGHT—A **MYSTERY.**

IT MAKES ME FEEL... HOMESICK.

I WANT TO GO HOME.

I WANT TO GO HOME...

THE JURASSIC AND CRETACEOUS PERIODS— THE AGE OF THE DINOSAURS— LASTED 140 MILLION YEARS!

ALL I WANT... IS TO GO HOME.

BUT 65 MILLION YEARS AGO, THOSE DINOSAURS SUDDENLY AND COMPLETELY WENT EXTINCT.

AND I MEAN **ALL** THE DIFFERENT SPECIES OF DINOSAURS— FROM ALL OVER THE **PLANET!**

A LARGE METEOR OR COMET STRUCK EARTH...

...OR PERHAPS OUR SOLAR SYSTEM PLUNGED INTO AN INTERSTELLAR GAS CLOUD.

OVER THE YEARS, WE'VE HEARD THEORY AFTER THEORY.

TOKYO, 1991...

LOOK AT THE EVIDENCE, MOM! WE COULD BE REACHING OUR EVOLUTIONARY CEILING AND NOT EVEN KNOW IT.

I CAN'T BE THE ONLY ONE TO SEE IT!

BUT MY **OWN** HYPOTHESIS IS FAR MORE **DARING**...

...AND PRESENT DAY CONDITIONS ARE FOLLOWING THE SAME TRAGIC PATTERN!

AND I'M NOT JUST BITTER ABOUT BEING SO SHORT!

THE VERY IDEA HAD ME UP ALL NIGHT!

C'MON, ALICE! DOESN'T THIS TOPIC GET YOU GOING?

WHAT DID THE DINOSAURS ALL HAVE IN COMMON? THEIR MASSIVE ***SIZE!***

HUMAN BEINGS **FOLLOW** THE DISTURBING TREND—GROWING EVER LARGER THAN OUR ANCESTORS!

SO WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?

...

DOESN'T SEEM TO IMPRESS HER, HAJIME.

Hmm..

SOB SOB

I... I WANT TO GO HOME...

ISN'T **HAJIME** EVER GOING TO BE OLD ENOUGH TO RUN ANY OF THE ERRANDS AROUND HERE?

WHY DO I HAVE TO GO?

!!

FSH

MY WORD! IF YOU WANT TO SPEND ALL YOUR TIME MOPING AROUND, FINE, BUT COULD YOU AT LEAST GO BUY US SOME TOFU, ALICE?

?

OH, FINE.

I'LL NEED SOME CASH.

BOO HOO BOO HOO

IF YOU CAN'T EVEN APPRECIATE YOUR DEAR LITTLE BROTHER'S EFFORTS TO CHEER YOU UP, WHY...

...YOU DESERVE TO FOREVER WANDER IN SEARCH OF THE TOFU STORE!

THE PHONE HASN'T RUNG ONCE.

NOT FOR HER.

SO?

WELL, IT'S BEEN TEN DAYS.

I'D HOPED SHE'D HAVE MADE A FRIEND BY NOW.

BUT NO ONE EVER CALLS FOR ALICE, NOT YET.

OH... I SEE.

ZIP ZUP

I BET SHE HASN'T EVEN HAD A CHANCE TO FIT IN YET. CAN YOU BLAME HER?

ALICE TENDS TO GET QUIET WHEN SHE'S AT SCHOOL, MOM.

SHE GETS SO HOMESICK BECAUSE SHE CAN'T MAKE ANY FRIENDS.

WE CAME ALL THE WAY TO TOKYO FROM THE BOONIES OF HOKKAIDO.

AHH

EVEN I HAD TROUBLE ADJUSTING AT FIRST.

ACCENT'S EASY TO FIX, THOUGH.

MRNCH

I THINK THAT'S ONLY HALF OF IT...

I DUNNO. ALICE HAS ALWAYS BEEN KINDA... **SPECIAL.**

AND WHAT'S THE OTHER HALF?

NO... IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.

THE PLANTS AND FLOWERS OBSESS ON **ALICE.**

YOU MEAN THE WAY SHE GETS OBSESSED OVER PLANTS AND FLOWERS?

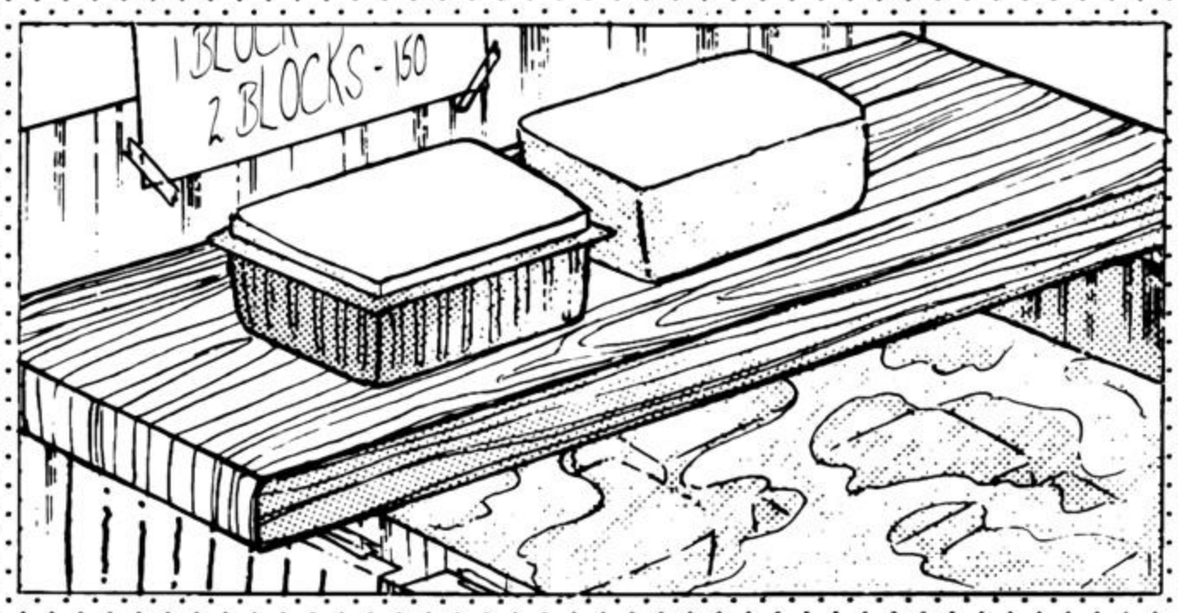
OH. YES.

IT **IS** A BIT WEIRD.

RIN? I'M NOT SURE "FRIEND" IS THE RIGHT WORD...

CRNCH MRNCH

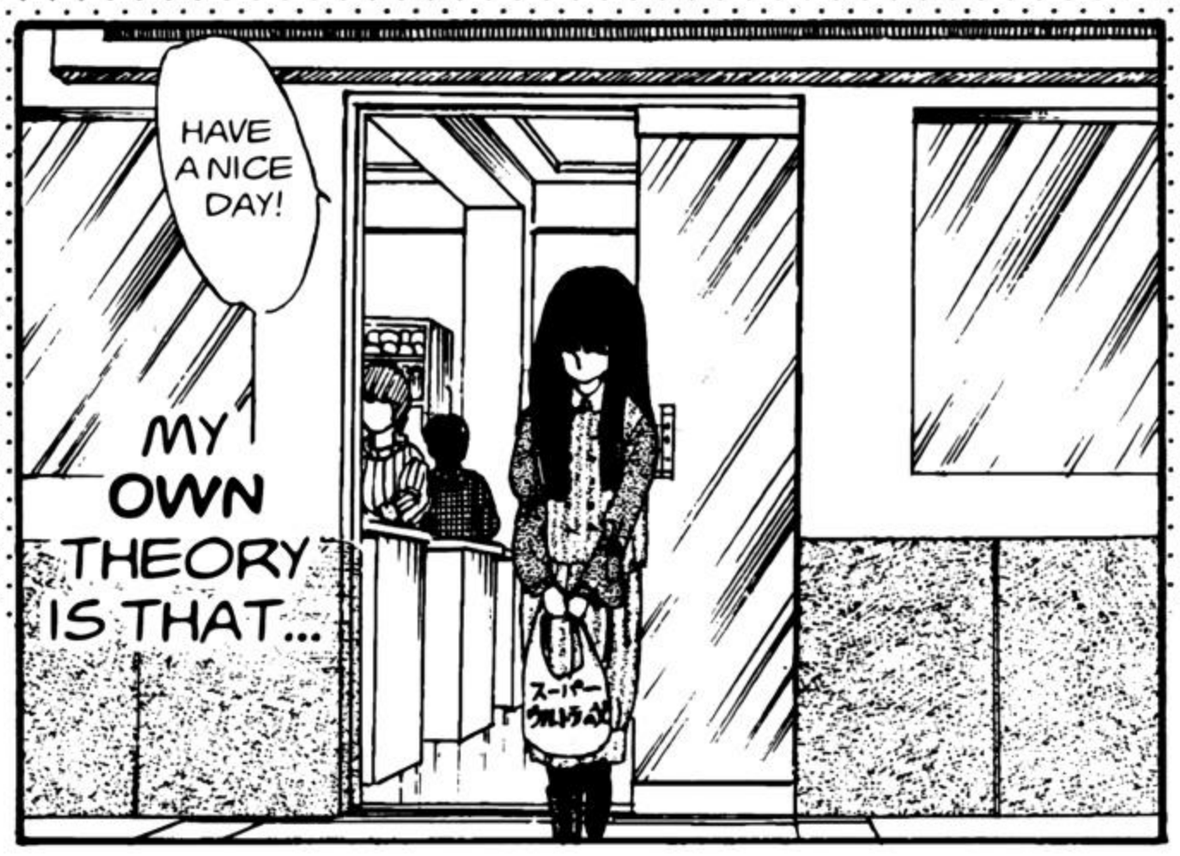
AT LEAST SHE'S MADE FRIENDS EASILY ENOUGH WITH THE LITTLE BOY NEXT DOOR.



THAT MUST BE IT.

WE'RE OFFFF TO OUTER SPAAACE WE'RE LEEEAVING MOTHER EARRRRTH!

POOT!



...THE DINOSAURS ALL GOT HOMESICK, SO THEY RETURNED TO THEIR HOME PLANET.

GOODBYE, OUR SECOND HOME!

SOB! SOB!

SNRF

SNF SNF

WAH!

HOKKAIDO IS FULL OF **LIFE**—NOT LIKE THE CITY.

THE AIR HERE IS SO THICK AND POLLUTED...

EVEN THE TREES...

...SEEM TO WANT TO RETURN TO SOME OTHER PLACE.

TSH FSH

POOR DEARS...

CUT IT OUT, ALICE.

YOU HAVE TO BRING THE TOFU BACK.

WANT TO GO **HOME**...

1/4 COLUMN NONSENSE

PART 1

HELLO! ♡

BIWATARI, HERE. AROUND THE TIME I WAS FINISHING UP MY PREVIOUS SERIAL, "AKUMA-KUN MAGIC ★ BITTER," I MOVED INTO A NEW APARTMENT. IT WAS JUST DOWN THE BLOCK FROM WHERE I USED TO LIVE, BUT NOW, FROM MY SOUTH WINDOW, I COULD SEE INTO MY NEXT-DOOR NEIGHBOR'S BIG BACKYARD, FULL OF TREES AND PLANTS. ONE CLEAR DAY, I WAS SUNNING AND STARING INTO THIS YARD...

"I KNOW I'VE SEEN THOSE FLOWERS BEFORE... BUT WHAT WERE THEY CALLED...?"

I HAD NO IDEA. SO I PULLED OUT THE BIG FLOWER BOOK THAT I SWIPED FROM MY PARENTS' HOUSE, AND FOUND THAT IT WAS A LILY MAGNOLIA. BEFORE I KNEW IT, THE SUN WAS SETTING, AND THE STARS WERE TWINKLING IN THE SKY. I'M ON THE THIRD FLOOR, SO I CAN SEE THE SKY WITHOUT TOO MUCH OBSTRUCTION. IT FELT SO PEACEFUL, LIKE I WAS WRAPPED IN SOMETHING WARM... AND I WONDERED IF I COULD POSSIBLY DEPICT THAT KIND OF FEELING. AND THAT'S HOW I STARTED "PLEASE SAVE MY EARTH."

URK!

TAMP TAMP

FWSH FASH FWSH FASH

THAT SOUND...

TUMP!

IT'S THAT KID—PLAYING "RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS"...

...AND HE'S COMING THIS WAY!

SKOONATCH!

RIN KOBAYASHI!

FWSH FASH FWSH

CHMP CHMP

HELLO, ALICE! HOW ARE **YOU** TO-NIGHT?

ON AN ERRAND FOR THE FAMILY, ARE WE? THAT'S VERY GOOD OF YOU. **VERY** GOOD!

YOU JUST WANT TO TRICK ME AGAIN!

NO! I DON'T WANT ANY!

スーパー

YOU DESERVE SOME GUM AS A REWARD.

GEE!

I'M JUST A KID, AND YOU WANT TO GIVE ME A COMPLEX!

HOW COULD YOU!

PLACING UNFOUNDED SUSPICION ON AN INNOCENT 7-YEAR OLD!

...

YOU'RE LIKE SOME GUY FROM THE I.R.S....!

CHMP CHMP

I...

...I FOUND SOME GUM IN MY SHOES THE OTHER DAY! IN MY **SHOES!**

THAT WAS **YOU,** WASN'T IT!?

AWWW... I GUESS HE CAN BE CUTE SOMETIMES.

SURE.

OOH! OOH!

OKAY, OPEN YOUR MOUTH PLEASE!

SKTCH

F-FINE, THEN... I'LL HAVE ONE...

SCRNSH

REALLY? WOW, THAT'S AN HONOR.

PTU!

OKAY!

AHHH

!

CHMP MNCH

KOBAYASHI GAPING MOUTH SYNDROME

GULP

FSSH

NEW PIECE OF GUM

♪♫♪♫

YES, MOM!

RIN, WHERE ARE YOU? DINNER TIME!

FASH FWSH FASH

♪ ♫ TWEEDLE-DEE-DEEDLE ♪ ♪ TWEEDLE-DEE-DOO ——— ♪

TOOFUUU ———

TOOFUUUUU ———

SIGH

THWACK!

SLOW

HOW **SLOW** CAN A GIRL BE? THE TOFU VENDOR JUST CAME BY!

IF I'D KNOWN YOU WERE GOING TO **DAWDLE** I'D'VE SPARED MYSELF THE MISERY!

DID YOU GET **LOST?**

I'LL EAT IT IF YOU WON'T, Y'KNOW!

ALICE, HAVE SOME MORE.

...BUT MY DELICATE STOMACH WAS SO SHAKEN THAT I COULD BARELY EAT.

SNF

DINNER WAS MY FAVORITE DISH—TOFU HOTPOT...

BLIP BLUP

I-I WANT TO EAT, BUT...

MOM SAYS I'M "SLOW." AND DAD AND HAJIME...

...I JUST KNOW THEY'LL LAUGH AT ME IF I TELL THEM WHAT HAPPENED.

IS THAT SO?

I HEAR RIN BULLIED HER AGAIN.

WHOA!

WHAT THE HECK?

SOB

PLUS, IT'S TOO HUMILIATING TO POINT OUT THAT, OF THE FIVE BLOCKS OF TOFU I BOUGHT...

...THREE WERE FOR ME...

1/4 COLUMN NONSENSE
PART 2

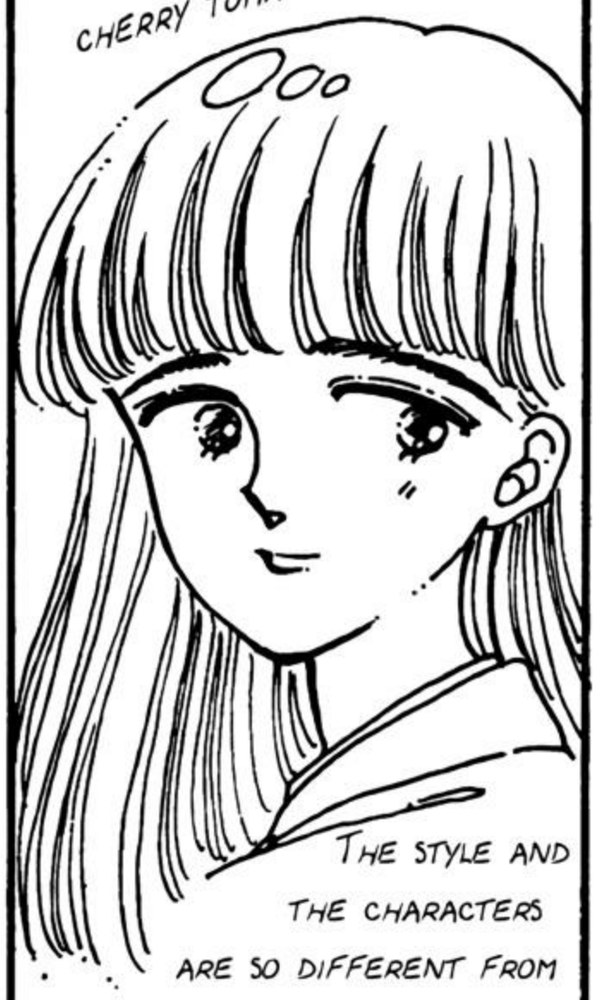
ABOUT ALICE:

I GOT A LOT OF LETTERS ABOUT HOW MY ART STYLE HAS CHANGED—BUT THAT'S JUST HOW IT TURNED OUT WHEN I TRIED TO CAPTURE ALICE'S ESSENCE. IF I HAD TRIED TO DRAW IN MY PREVIOUS STYLE, SHE WOULD'VE JUST BEEN A SAKI-KNOCKOFF FROM MY PREVIOUS SERIES.

I WANTED A FRESH START. I WASN'T USED TO IT, OF COURSE, WHICH IS WHY ALICE LOOKS DIFFERENT FROM PANEL TO PANEL AT FIRST (ESPECIALLY IN THE PREVIEW ADS).

HA HA HA...

ALICE'S EYES LOOK LIKE UPSIDE-DOWN CHERRY TOMATOES!



THE STYLE AND THE CHARACTERS ARE SO DIFFERENT FROM MY PREVIOUS STUFF THAT I WAS WORRIED ABOUT READER REACTION.

BUT PERHAPS THANKS TO ALICE'S CHARISMA, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF.

DON'T WORRY, I CAN STILL DRAW AKUMA-KUN! ❤

THAT NIGHT, I WEPT MYSELF TO SLEEP, NURSING THE PANGS IN MY POOR HUNGRY STOMACH...

MOM, HOW COULD YOU CALL YOUR OWN DAUGHTER "SLOW"?

SNF SNF SOB SNF

HAJIME ATE 3 1/2 BLOCKS OF TOFU!

RIN, YOU STUPID TURD. BURN IN HELL.

GRRR GRRR GRUMBLE

NO, NO, NO. SHH. DON'T BLAME DAD FOR THE MOVE, ALICE. HE'S HAPPY ABOUT HIS PROMOTION.

DING!

I DON'T CHEW GUM THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING.

C'MON, IT'S JUST FOR YOU!

RMMRMMRMMRMM

HELLO, ALICE! MY LAST PIECE.

YOU CAN HAVE IT!

I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I DID, ALICE.

CAN WE BE PALS, NOW?

KATINK KATINK

HEY! ARE YOU MAD AT ME?

ACK!

FAP

LEAVE ME ALONE! YOU'RE MAKING ME LATE!

BESIDES, MANJU-SHAGE ELEMENTARY IS **THAT** WAY! NOW, **GO**!

KATINK

KATUNK

I'LL **HAND** YOU THE GUM THIS TIME!

COME ON, I WANT YOU TO HAVE IT!

OOPS...!

SPLAT

BUBBLE GUM

URK!

WHAP

Y-
Y-
YOU'RE
A
MEANIE!

UH-OH...

OKAY.

SNF SNF

THAT WAY YOU DON'T NEED TO CRY!

LOOK, I'LL BUY YOU SOME CANDY INSTEAD! OKAY?

I'M SORRY! REALLY I AM!

WAAA

OH, NO!

SHH! DON'T CRY!

RIN!

!?

THAT WAS ALL MY FAULT! I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU!

GUM!

YOU CAN TAKE YOUR PICK.

SEE... THERE ARE DORAEMON LOLLIPOPS... AND Q-CHAN CHOCOLATES ARE OVER THERE... AND...

GOOD MORNING!

ANOTHER SCHOOL DAY BEGINS FOR THE INVISIBLE GIRL...

SIGH

HUH?

OH... YES...IT'S MORNING... UM...

GRIN

GOOD MORNING, ALICE. HOW ARE YOU TODAY?

HEY! WHAT'S THAT?

OH, NO!

IT'S...

IT'S A WAD OF GUM STUCK IN YOUR HAIR! HOW DID **THAT** HAPPEN!?

IT'S MARIKO SUZUKI. **MARIKO** TO MY FRIENDS.

YOU STILL HAVEN'T MEMORIZED MY NAME YET, HAVE YOU?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHAT?

HOW AWFUL!

OH, MY!

POOR THING!

WHO DID IT?

THAT'S SO MEAN!

GUM IN HER HAIR!

PP

BB

THE GIRLS ARE IN AN UPROAR— AS USUAL.

OH, BOY.

NOW WHAT?

SHE HAS SUCH BEAUTIFUL HAIR, TOO!

WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING!?

IT'LL BE OKAY.
DON'T CRY.
THERE, THERE!
LET'S GO TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE. SOME ICE WILL TAKE IT OUT.
OH, DEAR! SHE'S CRYING!
WHAT MADE HER CRY?
SHE'S AT THE CENTER OF ALL THE FUSS.
THAT QUIET NEW GIRL!
...SUCH DEEP SORROW... FOR A GIRL OF TENDER YEARS...
OOH! YOU'RE HAVING A "PRECIOUS BEAUTY OF YOUTH" MOMENT!
...
JINPACHI...YOU HAVE FLOWERS IN YOUR BACKGROUND!
I DO NOT!

BUMP

OOPS! HOME-ROOM IS ABOUT TO START.

IT'S JUST HOME-ROOM.

HAIR MEANS **EVERY-THING** TO A GIRL.

TH... THANK YOU ALL.

I THINK WE CAN GET IT ALL OUT, ALICE.

SUCH FINE HAIR.

I ENVY YOU, ALICE! I DO!

ALL THE BOYS CAN SEE IT!

ME, TOO! YOU CARRY YOURSELF WITH SUCH GRACE!

YEAH! A LOT OF THE GUYS ARE CLEARLY DRAWN TO YOU...

I'VE WANTED TO GET TO KNOW YOU, BUT I FELT INTIMIDATED.

HUH?

WELL, YOU KNOW... YOU'RE SO **MATURE.**

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D LIKE ME.

YOU BRING OUT THE MAN IN THEM!

ESPECIALLY JINPACHI OGURA! HE'S ALWAYS WATCHING YOU...

...AND I KNOW WHY!

YOU'RE SO SWEET AND SHY...

...THEY WANT TO PRO-TECT YOU!

OH...

...WELL, MY MOM WAS A BIG FAN OF "ALICE IN WONDERLAND"...

I THINK IT'S CUTE!

HOW DID YOU GET IT?

"ALICE" SOUNDS SO VERY EXOTIC!

AND YOUR NAME!

WOW, **COOL**!
SO SHE WANTED YOU TO HAVE ADVENTURES AND TO TALK WITH OTHER CREATURES AND STUFF?

THAT MAY BE IT...!

YOU KNOW, I BET THAT'S WHY I CAN UNDERSTAND HOW TREES AND FLOWERS FEEL!

HUH?

UM... I MEAN... DOES THIS SCHOOL HAVE A GARDEN CLUB?

UH...

...NOT THAT I KNOW OF...

WHAT!? THEN WHO TAKES CARE OF THOSE CAMELLIAS —AND THE DAPHNE SHRUBS!?

DUNNO!

AT FIRST, I WAS SO MAD!

ALL I COULD THINK OF...

...WAS GOING HOME AND CLOBBERING THAT BRAT RIN!

BUT NOW...

...I FEEL A LITTLE LIKE I SHOULD **THANK** HIM.

I WAS JUST WAITING...

...FOR A CHANCE LIKE THIS, TO BREAK THE ICE...

BYE, ALICE!

SEE YOU LATER!

PHEW.

MOM SAID WE'RE HAVING SAVORY EGG CUSTARD TONIGHT!

TIME TO GO HOME!

OH!

BYE, ALICE!

B-BMP

B-BMP

FWIP

SHSSS

FSHAA

FSH

MAYBE I'LL STAY ON CAMPUS A BIT LONGER.

THE TREES ARE INVITING ME TO STOP BY...

THERE SHE IS!

THE CAMELLIA NEXT TO THE LIBRARY...

HOW ARE YOU?

SHSS FSSHAA

TSSHAA

...

...WE'RE JUST NOT "NORMAL," ARE WE...?

...SO...

TELL ME...

I DON'T RECOGNIZE THE OTHER GUY...MUST BE IN A DIFFERENT CLASS...

HE **IS** A GUY... ISN'T HE...?

SO HE'S THE ONE!

.....

IT...IT'S THAT GUY FROM MY CLASS...

SHH!

SHH! TAKE COVER, ALICE!

YOU BRING OUT THE **MAN** IN THEM! ESPECIALLY JINPACHI OGURA!

I...

...YES, I...

...I GUESS... YOU COULD SAY THAT...

ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT...

...WE'RE JUST NOT NORMAL!

YOU WOULD SAY THAT, WOULDN'T YOU...!?

YOU WOULD!

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK.

FOR ME... I...

BUT YOU!

YOU FELT WORSE ABOUT IT, DIDN'T YOU...?

STOP!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY IT!

GO ON. ADMIT IT!

LAST NIGHT... WE...!

THE WAY THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER...

ISSEI...

I

I

THIS LOOKS LIKE...

WH- WHAT IS THIS **VIBE** I'M GETTING?

KRNCH

I HAVE TO GET...

IT **IS** A LOVE SCENE... AND HERE I AM...

...SPYING ON THEM! THIS ISN'T RIGHT!

...LIKE... A **LOVE SCENE!**

...I WAS JUST ON MY WAY HOME!

EEP!

UM... ...DON'T MIND ME, I...

VROOOOM!!

YEAH. SHE'S A NEW GIRL.

IS SHE IN YOUR CLASS?

I THINK THAT WAS ALICE.

SHE SEEMED TO HAVE HEARD ALL OF IT...

...AND, WITH US HAND IN HAND...

DO YOU THINK SHE GOT THE WRONG IDEA?

JUST GREAT...

YEAH. WE SHOULD PROBABLY ASSUME THE WORST.

OHMIGOD!

OHMIGOD!

I...I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT KIND OF THING BEFORE... NOT IN **PERSON!**

MOM, I'M HOME.

OH, ALICE! THERE YOU ARE. ABOUT TIME!

COME HERE.

I'M BEAT.

PHEW!

UFF

HFF

URK...

HUH?

THIS IS WHAT MANGA FANGIRLS ARE SUPPOSED TO WEEP WITH JOY OVER...

...TRUE GAY LOVE!

VROOM

WHAT'S **RIN'S MOM** DOING HERE?

SANY.

WELL, MRS. KOBAYASHI JUST STOPPED BY...

...AND SHE TELLS ME SHE HAS A CHORALE RECITAL DAY AFTER TOMORROW...

HUH? N-NO... WHY?

YOU'RE NOT BUSY THIS SUNDAY, ARE YOU?

SHE WON'T BE BACK UNTIL LATE...

...SO SHE WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD BABY-SIT RIN WHILE SHE WAS GONE.

HER HUSBAND IS AWAY ON A BUSINESS TRIP, YOU SEE...

NOOO!

N...

WH...WHAT ABOUT HAJIME?

HE HAS PRACTICE. SUCH A BUSY BOY!

...AND, OF COURSE, I'M ALREADY HAVING CHO-CHAN AND HER HUSBAND OVER THIS SUNDAY.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

MY LITTLE ONE REALLY SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN A LIKING TO YOU!

TEE HEE

YAY!

RIN TOLD ME HE WOULD **LOVE** TO STAY WITH YOU, ALICE...

THAT NIGHT, I LEFT HALF OF MY FAVORITE SAVORY EGG CUSTARD...

...AND CRIED MYSELF TO SLEEP, NURSING THE PANGS IN MY EMPTY STOMACH...

M-MOM, HOW **COULD** YOU? I MEAN, BABY-SIT **RIN**!?

SNF SNF SOB

HAJIME ATE THE REST OF MY CUSTARD!

DAMN THAT PUNK...

GRRR GRUMBLE GRRR

RIN, YOU STUPID TURD. BURN IN HELL.

SHH. NO, NO, NO.

DON'T BLAME DAD FOR THE MOVE, ALICE. HE'S HAPPY ABOUT HIS



THANK YOU SO MUCH, ALICE.

I'LL BE BACK BY EIGHT.

PEACE! ii...

BE A GOOD BOY NOW, RIN.

FWSH!

PTUI!

LA LA LA IM SCHATTEN DES WALDES...

SLAM

¡HMPH!

NOW PICK UP THAT GUM YOU SPIT OUT AND THROW IT AWAY!

¡HMPH!

I SAID, THROW IT **AWAY!** NOW **DO IT!**

DID YOU THINK THE SAME TRICK WOULD WORK ON ME **TWICE!?**

I'M NO FOOL!!

HA HAH!

DARN!

WAP

YOU OLD BAG, HOW **DARE** YOU!?

WAP

OW!

WAP

OWW!

LEMME GO, YOU DUMBASS!

THAT WON'T MAKE ME CRY, **MORON!**

I KNEW YOU FAKED IT LAST TIME!

OUCH

NOT EVEN A TEAR, EH?

SUITED YOU JUST **FINE**, YOU SILLY BITCH!

HAH!

HOW DARE **YOU** PUT GUM IN MY HAIR!?

MOM TMP TMP TMP TMP

VSH TMP TMP TMP TMP

ACT ALL PRIM AND PROPER IN PUBLIC, BUT I KNOW YOU'RE NO **VIRGIN**!

WHAM!

THINK I'M SLOW, DO YOU?

AW!

IT'S SUNDAY, DUMBASS!

VIP

WH- WH- WHAT D-D-DUH...

AND IF IT'S A GUY, IT MEANS HE'S A TRUE GENT!

I KNOW THAT "VIRGIN" MEANS YOU'RE A PROPER LADY!

.....

JUST TRY AND DENY IT, STOOPID!

MY MOM'S A GREAT VIRGIN, BUT NOT YOU!

YOU'RE A BAD GIRL!

MYOW

A CAT!

...

ACK!

URK

FWIP

PURR PURR

SHE MUST HAVE WALKED ALONG THE RAIL TO YOUR APARTMENT.

SNIP

YOU'RE RIGHT! AW, SHE'S SO CUTE!

CATS! THEY FREAK ME OUT!

PAT PAT PAT

WHAT'S UP WITH **YOU?**

HUH?

C'MERE, KITTY. I'LL GIVE YOU SOME MILK.

BUT, RIN! WHAT IF **YOU**...

...WERE A CAT IN A PREVIOUS LIFE?

THEY'RE **WEIRD!** FREAKS OF NATURE!

WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

!

I KNOW 'BOUT THAT!

"RIN-CARNATION," RIGHT? THAT'S WHERE MY NAME COMES FROM!

MY MOM'S THE BEST! !!!

WOW! THAT'S **SO** SWEET!

MOM NAMED ME SO EVEN IF WE DIE, WE'LL MEET AGAIN IN OUR NEXT LIVES!

HAVE SOME MILK.

C'MERE, CAT.

MY DAD'S BUSY ALL THE TIME.

I'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE ZOO.

HE'S A VIRGIN, AFTER ALL!

SIGH. CITY KIDS...

ALL **LIVE** ANIMALS ARE SPOOKY! PICTURES ARE OKAY, THOUGH...

YOU'RE SO WEIRD! I MEAN... A CAT PHOBIA OF ALL THINGS...?

THEN WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO? IT'S FUN!

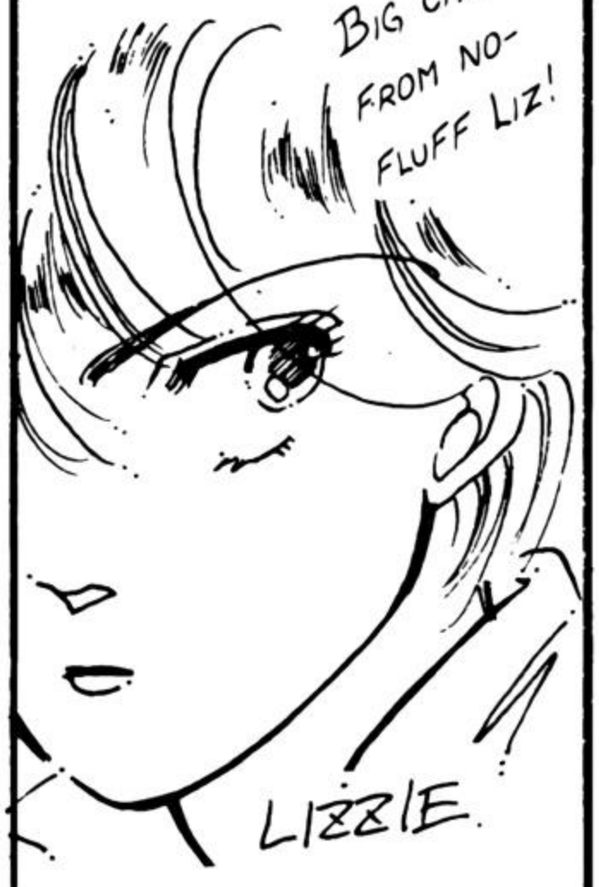
W- WELL... OKAY!

V4 COLUMN NONSENSE

PART 3

PSME HAD THE SUBTITLE "VIVID MEMORIES: TOKYO ARC," SO IT'S STILL SUPPOSED TO BE A SUSPENSE STORY LIKE THE FIRST "VIVID MEMORIES" (AN EARLIER HIWATARI STORY CURRENTLY ONLY AVAILABLE IN JAPANESE-PD). WRITING UP ALICE'S HOME LIFE, I WONDERED MYSELF HOW THIS COULD BE CALLED "SUSPENSEFUL." HA, HA, HA, HA, HA.

A CHARACTER LIKE ALICE GIVES OFF A GENTLE VIBE THAT BLOWS AWAY ALL TENSION AND WARMS YOUR HEART. I'M HOPING THIS WILL HELP CREATE A DIFFERENT KIND OF MYSTERIOUS, ROMANTIC MOOD TO THE STORY.



A LOT OF PEOPLE ASSUMED THIS WAS ANOTHER TALE OF LIZ AND JOJO, SET IN TOKYO. I MISS LIZZIE...



I-I CAN'T DO THIS.

C'MON, RIN! LET'S GO SEE THE MONKEYS!

BUT THEY'RE NOT SCARY.

NOT A BIT!

THEY'RE PROBABLY CURIOUS ABOUT YOU, TOO. DON'T YOU THINK?

WH-WHY ARE THEY CROWDING TOWARD US LIKE THAT?

Y-YOU-YOU CAN TELL WHAT THEY'RE **SAYING**!?

THEY'RE SAYING IT'S SO YOU CAN MEET THEM UP CLOSE, RIN!

I'M JUST GUESSING HA, HA, HA! HOW THEY FEEL!

AUGH.

WHY ARE THEY ALL CLUSTER-ING OVER HERE!?

HUH...

...YOU CAN SORT OF TELL SHE HAS A HEADACHE? IT'S LIKE THAT.

YOU KNOW HOW, IF YOUR MOM IS HOLDING HER HEAD...

HEY, ALICE! IS THAT TIGER A VIRGIN?

I REMEMBER ALL THE ANIMALS THRONGING AROUND ME...

...THAT FIRST TIME MY FOLKS TOOK ME TO THE ZOO.

I WAS IN TEARS.

MY PARENTS REASSURED ME THERE WAS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

WHAT WAS SO CURIOUS ABOUT ME?

I'M JUST A HUMAN BEING, LIKE ANYONE ELSE.

THIS IS MAKING ME NERVOUS...

FWIP FWIP FWIP

YET, I CAN SEE IT IN THE EYES OF ALL THE ANIMALS HERE...

"WHO IN THE WORLD ARE **YOU**!?"

IT'S JUST LIKE I TOLD RIN...

HOW CAN YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE THINKING!? HUMANS CAN'T DO THAT!

UM...

...IF YOU'RE **ACTING** HAPPY, I GET THE FEELING THAT YOU **ARE** HAPPY! THAT'S ALL!

IF YOU'LL TAKE CARE OF IT!

YOU BET I WILL!

YOU'D DO THAT!?

WANT ME TO GET YOU A CROCUS AS A SOUVENIR?

HEY! BULBS FOR SALE!

IT COULD BE THAT WE'RE...

THEY AND THEY ADORE KIDS, TOO.

SURE ARE.

ARE THEY PRETTY!?

URK!

COME WITH ME, RIN. IT'S GETTING LATE.

ALICE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

C?

UM... WELL... HELLO!

PUSH

I REALLY WANT TO SET YOU, UM... **STRAIGHT.**

C- COULD WE GO SIT DOWN FOR A SEC?

W-WAIT! I DON'T WANT YOU TO GET THE WRONG IDEA!

SHMP

BONK

YOUR BRO?

SO... THE KID...

I'M RIGHT HERE YOU KNOW!

UM... SO, ARE YOU ON A DATE?

H-HE LIVES NEXT DOOR... NAME'S RIN. BUT I **DO** HAVE A LITTLE BROTHER.

RIN! STOP THAT!

ALICE, THESE GUYS AREN'T VIRGINS!

A D-DATE, SHE SAYS...

NO... MY BIG BROTHER WORKS HERE. THAT'S ALL.

MY FRIEND IS ISSEI NISHIKIORI. HE'S IN CLASS THREE.

...UH... JUST SO YOU KNOW— WE'RE **NOT** GAY...

...!...

...

HEH

YOU **DID** SEE US AT AN AWKWARD MOMENT, SO I DON'T BLAME YOU FOR ASSUMING...

BUT I **HEARD** YOU TWO ADMIT THAT YOU WEREN'T... "NORMAL!"

I MEAN, IT'S OKAY THESE DAYS, RIGHT?

AS LONG AS YOU HAVE SAFE SEX...

...

LOOK, YES... WE **ARE** ODD, OKAY?

WE'RE **NOT** TWINS, NOT EVEN RE-LATED...

...AND YET... WELL... EVERY NIGHT WE HAVE THE SAME DREAMS...

AND ISSEI'S ALWAYS CALLED "ENJU." AND YOU SEE... WELL...

IN THESE DREAMS OF OURS, I'M ALWAYS CALLED "GYOKURAN."

NO, I'M... INTRIGUED.

I DON'T BLAME YOU IF YOU THINK IT'S ABSURD...

HA HA

TO SAY THE LEAST!

I'LL SAY IT. ENJU IS A **WOMAN.**

WE WERE ACTING WEIRD THAT DAY...

...BECAUSE, IN THE PREVIOUS NIGHT'S DREAM, GYOKURAN AND ENJU... MADE LOVE.

A-AND...ARE YOU TWO LOVERS, THEN? ...IN THE DREAM, THAT IS...

IT IS? HMM...

???

...THAT ENJU IS THE NAME OF A **TREE?**

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT GYOKURAN, BUT I THINK IT'S A FLOWER, TOO...

DID YOU KNOW ...

TONK

...WITH ANOTHER WOMAN. IT'S UNREQUITED ON MY... ENJU'S SIDE.

NO.

HE'S HEAD OVER HEELS IN LOVE...

SO YOU ARE ABNORMAL!

HOW STRANGE!

WELL...

...WE'RE LOOKING DOWN ON THE EARTH-LIKE FROM A SPACE SHUTTLE, OR THE MOON, OR SOMETHING!

HOW DO YOU MEAN?

BUT IT GETS EVEN **WEIRDER!** YOU SEE...

...IT'S ALMOST AS IF WE'RE SEEING OUR NEXT LIVES- ONLY IN THE **PAST TENSE.**

IT'S...

...THE EARTH IS THERE, FLOATING IN THE SKY.

WOW!

THAT MUST BE REALLY NEAT!

YOU KNOW, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL... SINCE THE DAY WE MET...

HUH?

...THAT, SOME-HOW, WE'VE ALWAYS KNOWN EACH OTHER.

TH-THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...

WHOA, JINPACHI! ARE YOU SAYING YOU **LIKE** HER!?

LISTEN, ALICE!

AND KEEP IT IN A COOL PLACE UNTIL I TELL YOU TO MOVE IT!

IT WAS WEIRD, BUT WHAT A COOL STORY...

...EH, RIN?

I HAD MY **OWN** DÉJÀ-VU ABOUT YOU! I DID!

I THINK WE'VE MET BEFORE! IN FACT, I **KNOW** IT!

HERE'S YOUR BULB, ALL SET!

AS THE ROOTS GROW DOWN, JUST POUR WATER OUT OF THE VASE—UNTIL IT'S HALF FULL.

FOR A 7-YEAR OLD BOY...

...YOU SURE USE SOME BIG WORDS SOMETIMES...

...

ARE YOU GONNA **MARRY** THAT GUY!?

ARE YOU IN **LOVE** WITH HIM!? JUST **TELL** ME!

UH...
..WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?

I-IS HE...
IS HE JEALOUS!?
NO WAY...

...

GASP!

AND...
AND WHAT IF I AM...?

WHOOSH

FWIP

HUH!?

ALICE!

TUP

TIP

LOOK!

RIN!

WE'RE TOO HIGH! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?

OH, NO!

PWAP

HOW COULD YOU DO SUCH A THING!?

SHWIP

.....

PIC

MOM!

AAAA!!

O

AH!

H...

HELP!

MOM!

MOM!!

MOM!

HE'S OUT COLD!

WE HAVE TO CALL FOR HELP!

...THIS CAN'T BE REAL! PLEASE... IT CAN'T...

THIS ...

MY GOD!

A KID JUST FELL OVER THE RAIL!

THIS LOOKS REAL BAD... PRAY THEY COME FAST!



WHAT DID SWEET RIN EVER DO TO YOU!?

HOW COULD YOU!?

HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO HIM!?

SHH, HON! CALM DOWN!

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

JUST TELL ME THIS ISN'T HAPPENING.

PLEASE...

...PLEASE, GOD...!

DEAR GOD,
PLEASE...!

AND... HOW'S RIN DOING?

IT'S A MIRACLE HE DIDN'T BREAK ANYTHING.

THE TREES UNDER THE BALCONY SLOWED HIS FALL.

OH... SWEET-HEART... YOU'RE HOME.

HOW IS ALICE DOING?

I PUT HER TO BED. SHE WAS SO TIRED. POOR GIRL...

WELL THAT'S GOOD, RIGHT?

YES, SON. IT IS. BUT...

HE HIT HIS HEAD PRETTY HARD.

HE... HE'S STILL IN A COMA...

ALICE!
LOOK!

RIN!

STOP!

NO!

DON'T
GO
THAT
WAY!

STOP HIM!

PLEASE!

RIN!

NO!

JUMP

IT WAS...

JUST A
DREAM...

THE RAIL...

SWIP

...IS STORIES UP...

THE BALCONY...

ALL THE WAY DOWN...

HE FELL... ALL THAT WAY...

GURP!

IT'S SO HIGH UP...

ALICE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING!

!!

SHEESH!

FMP

!!

PUT THIS ON FOR ME!

YOU'LL CATCH COLD OUT HERE!

...I ...I FEEL ...SICK ...

I... I'M GONNA THROW UP!

...HE'S JUST A LITTLE BOY...

HE...

WHY COULDN'T I SAVE HIM?

...

WHY?

WHAT DO I DO NOW?

HOW **COULD** YOU HAVE SAVED HIM? JUST LOOK AT THOSE SKINNY ARMS...

SHH. IT'S OKAY, ALICE...

I...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

THERE'S NOTHING **TO** DO, SWEET-HEART.

NOTHING WILL CHANGE THE PAST, ALICE.

THAT'S THE SAD PART OF LIFE.

NO MATTER HOW HARD YOU TRY, YOU CAN'T WISH THE PAST AWAY.

BRR! IT'S COLD OUT HERE.

MOM.

WE ALL HAVE REGRETS. IT'S PART OF GROWING UP.

BUT IT'S NOT WHAT YOU DID **YESTERDAY** THAT COUNTS. IT'S WHAT YOU DO WITH **TODAY!**

...AND WE'LL WORK THROUGH THIS TOGETHER- AS A **FAMILY!**

WE'RE RIGHT HERE WITH YOU, HON...

COME ON! LET'S GET INSIDE, BEFORE WE ALL CATCH OUR DEATHS!

OKAY...

PAT PAT

SWIP

I MADE A POT OF HOT TEA.

OH! SO, ALICE, DID YOU KNOW?

THE REASON RIN MIRACULOUSLY SURVIVED? TURNS OUT IT'S BECAUSE THE TREES UNDERNEATH ACTED TO CUSHION HIS FALL!

I GUESS THEY LIKE YOU **HERE**, TOO!

IT FEELS SO... WARM...

I FELT SO DESOLATE, SO EMPTY...

...JUST A MOMENT AGO.

I THINK I CAN GET THROUGH THIS.

THANKS. I'M OKAY NOW.

BUT NOW... I CAN FEEL LOVE AGAIN.

I'LL BE ALL RIGHT... I KNOW IT...

MOM, DAD, HAJIME... AND ALL THE LOVING **LIFE** AROUND ME...

BONG BONG BONG BONG

PLUMMETS FIFTEEN FLOO
TREES BREAK NEAR-DEATH F
REVEALED TO BE CRANE
SAKI HIWATARI EXPOSED

REALLY?

THAT'S WHAT I THINK, TOO!

NO WAY!

...MOM SAYS IT WAS **ALICE!**

THEY LEFT OUT THE NAMES BUT...

YEAH, I READ THE PAPER!

HEY! DID YOU HEAR!?

OH, NO!

HERE SHE IS!

SHE'S OUT OF HER MIND!

ALICE SLAPPED HIM AND PUSHED HIM OVER THE EDGE!

HOW AWFUL!

MY FRIEND LIVES THERE, AND. SHE SAYS THE KID'S NAME IS RIN!

COULD BE!

SHH

HHH

MORN-
ING.

UM...

UM...

GOOD MORNING.

KNK

...WELL- YOU NEVER KNOW.

DON'T CRY. JUST DON'T... CRY.

SHE DIDN'T PUSH HIM OFF ON PURPOSE, DID SHE...?

I HOPE NOT, BUT...

PST PSST

SHE LOOKS SO QUIET...

YEAH.

BAM

ESS

...

HMPH!

HI, ALICE! YOU OKAY, TODAY?

HEH!

OH... YES! I MEAN, I... WELL...

PLIP

G- GOOD...

PLIP
PLIP
PLUP

...GOOD MORN-ING!

DID YOU GO STRAIGHT HOME...

...OR DID YOU CONTINUE YOUR DATE WITH ISSEI?

I'M SUCH A CRYBABY. WHEN I GET HOME...

...I'LL BAKE SOME OF MY SMILEY COOKIES TO CHEER MYSELF UP.

RIN'S MOM...I BET SHE WON'T WANT TO SEE ME YET...

IN FACT, I'LL BAKE A **DOUBLE** BATCH...

...SO I'LL JUST LEAVE THEM BY HIS DOOR.

NO ONE WILL HAVE TO KNOW...

...AND TAKE SOME TO RIN AT THE HOSPITAL.

PLEASE, GOD...

ROOM 105
Rin Kobayashi

NO VISITORS

...PLEASE LOOK AFTER RIN.

1/4 COLUMN NONSENSE
PART 4

FLIPPING THROUGH "VIVID MEMORIES" NOW IS... WOW, IT'S INCREDIBLY EMBARRASSING. I'M NOT CRITICIZING THE STORY PER SE, BUT IT JUST SCREAMS "CHEESE"...

YOU CAN JUST HEAR THE ARTIST GOING, "LOOK! I'M TRYING SO HARD! I'M PUTTING A LOT OF EFFORT INTO THIS! I'M SO PASSIONATE ABOUT WHAT I'M WRITING!"

SO MUCH EFFORT THAT IT EVEN MAKES THE READER TENSE UP... ARGH! IT'S HUMILIATING!

THIS TIME, I'M MAKING SURE TO LOOSEN UP AND TAKE A DEEP BREATH BEFORE I START WORKING, AND TO SAY A LITTLE HELLO TO THE TREES BENEATH MY WINDOW. BESIDES, I DON'T THINK ALICE IS THE KIND OF GIRL YOU SHOULD BE DRAWING WITHOUT LOOSENING UP FIRST.

STILL, I WONDER IF I'LL BE EMBARRASSED BY PSME WHEN I LOOK BACK ON IT MANY YEARS DOWN THE ROAD.

IF YOU SAVE HIM...

...I PROMISE I'LL DO...

...WHATEVER YOU ASK OF ME.

BUT, PLEASE, GOD...

...LET RIN WAKE UP.


I KNOW YOU CAN SAVE HIM!

PLEASE, GOD!

...SO...

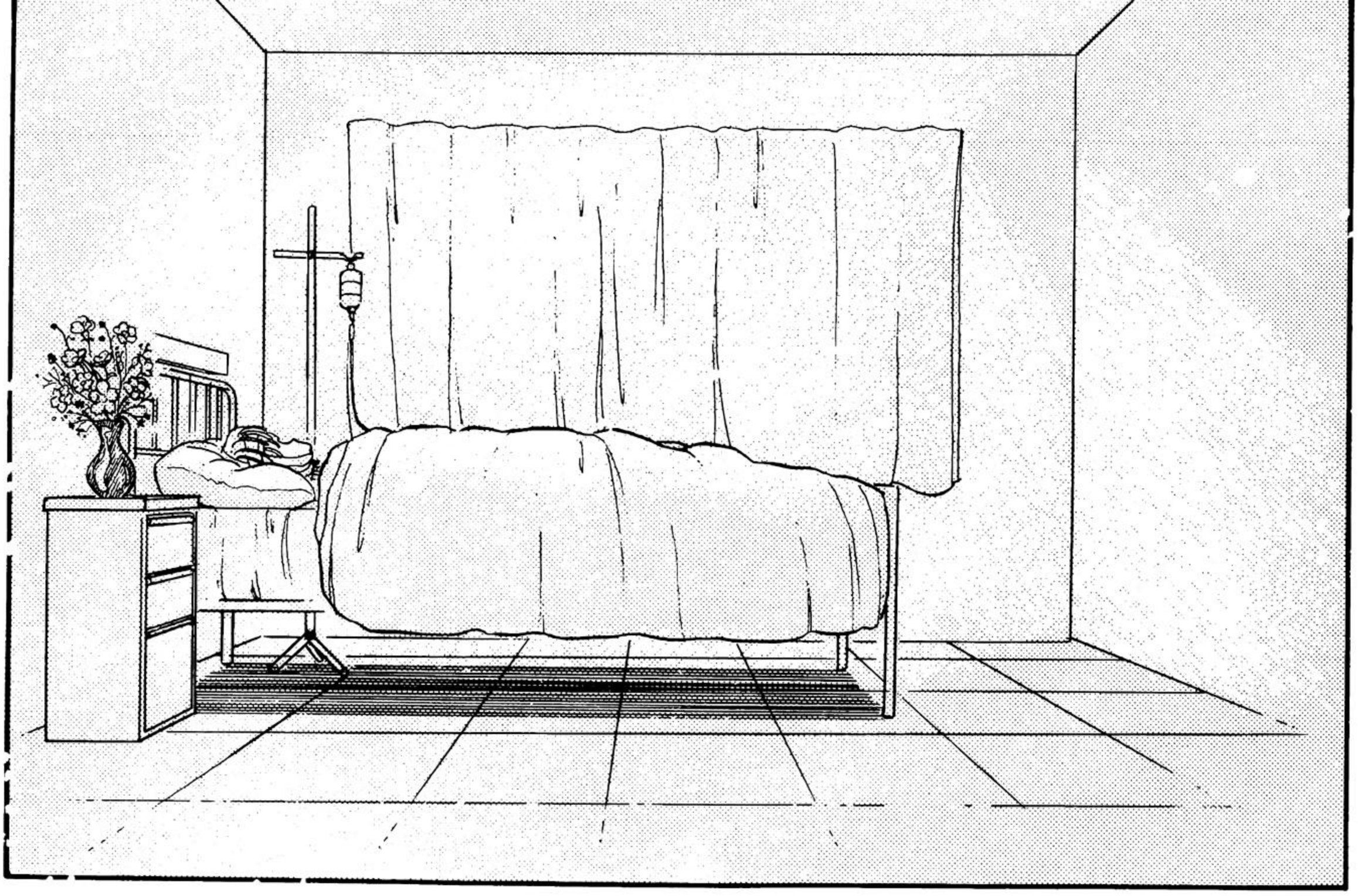
...SO...

...SO BLUE...

...WE'LL JUST HAVE TO...

...KEEP WATCH OVER EARTH... FROM HERE...


ACK






HUH?

OH! IT'S YOU, ALICE!

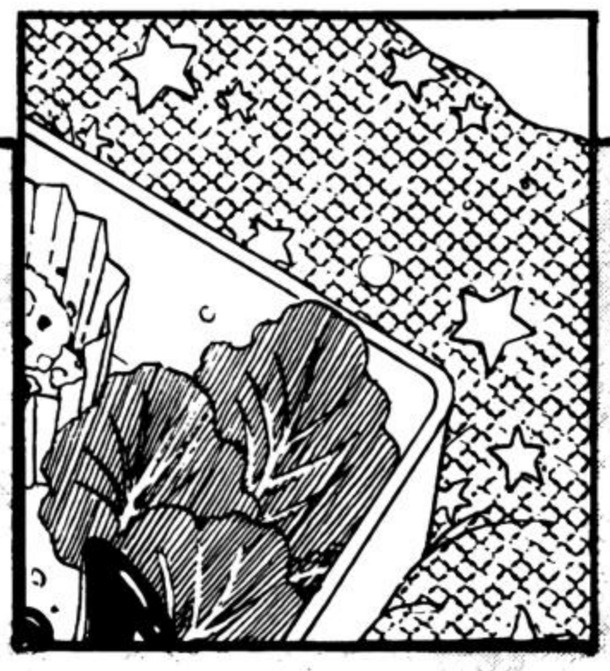
WHY HAVE A PICNIC OUT HERE?

I GUESS THE CLASSROOM **CAN** SPOIL ONE'S APPETITE.

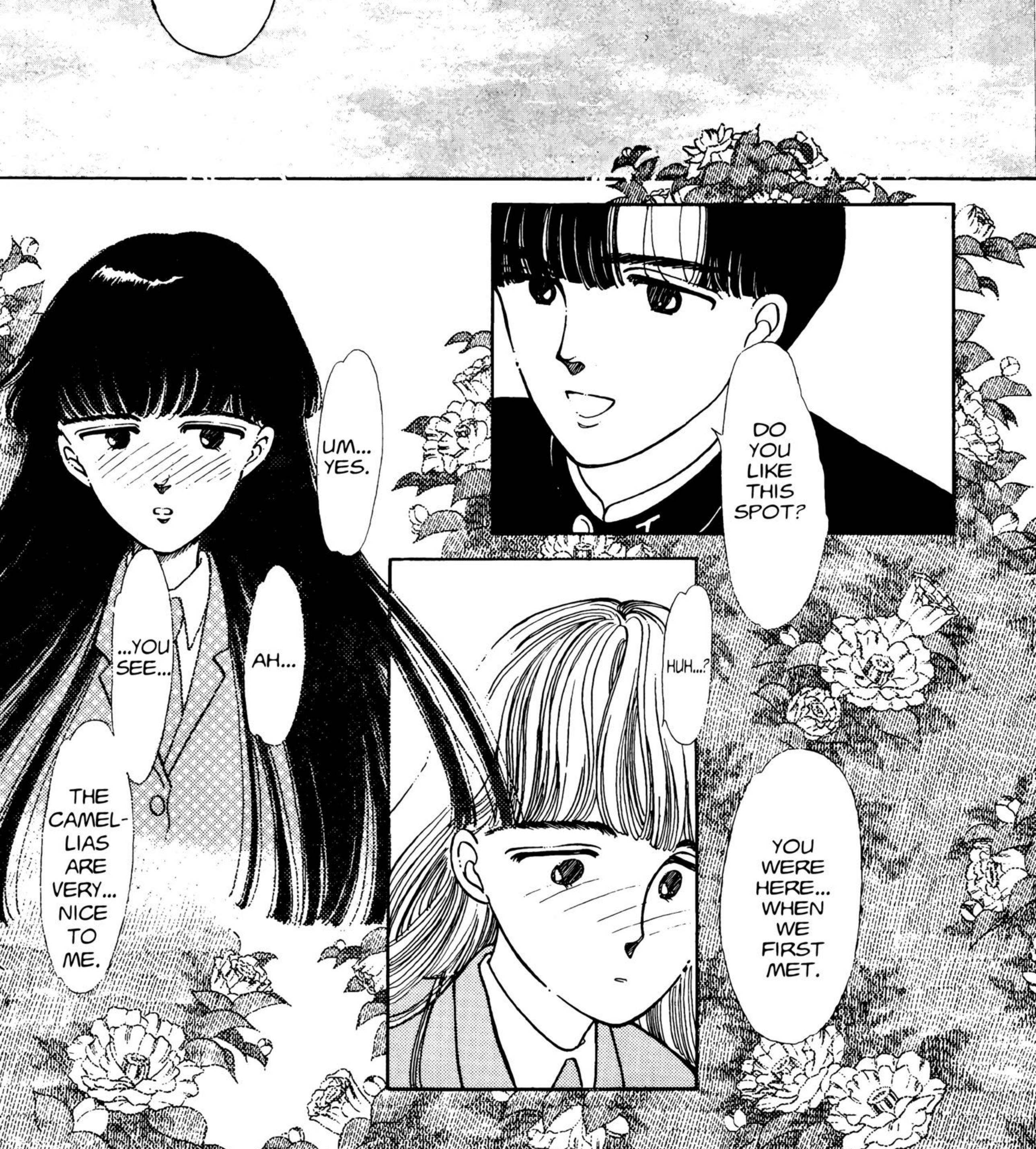
OOH! ARE THOSE CRO-QUETTES?

THEY SURE LOOK GOOD!

MAY I HAVE ONE?



IT'S SUCH A NICE DAY...



YEAH.

THE CAMELLIAS. THEY'RE VERY... "NICE" TO YOU?

HEY TELL ME...

...I HAVE TO SHAPE UP...

...AND TO TAKE THINGS IN STRIDE!

TO HANG IN THERE.

THE WAY YOU TALK OF PLANTS...

...IT REMINDS ME OF ANNE OF GREEN GABLES.

SUCH A FRESH OUT-LOOK.

WHY NOT EAT WHERE YOU LIKE?

WE ALL NEED TO GET AWAY SOME-TIMES.

I LIKE TO AT LEAST HAVE A PLEASANT LUNCH. IS THAT SILLY OF ME—TO ESCAPE MY TROUBLES?

WSH

UM...

WERE YOU HAVING A RENDEZ-VOUS WITH JINPACHI HERE!?

UH-OH...

!

ISSEI!

AH, HERE HE IS.

ALICE!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO...

BUT YOU'RE NOT DONE WITH LUNCH!

I... I'M SORRY! I-I'LL LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE!

I'M SO HEART-BROKEN, ISSEI!

SNAAAK

SHMP

I'M SO...

ISSEI, THERE YOU ARE!

!

I...

VROOM

MORON.

OH, IT'S YOU.

...HUH?

...

HA HA HA

...AT OUR MOST AWKWARD MOMENTS?

WHY IS IT YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO CATCH US...

YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU TWO ARE **STILL** SEEING THE SAME

!

IT... IT'S NOT OVER YET!?

HEH SKRTCH

WE TALK ABOUT THE PREVIOUS NIGHT'S DREAM HERE OVER LUNCH.

YOU KNOW THAT DREAM WE TOLD YOU ABOUT?

...

YEAH.

BUT WHY?

IT'S **COOL!** IT'S LIKE WATCHING A MOVIE EVERY NIGHT.

WE COULD SEE A SHRINK...

WELL, YEAH. KIND OF.

DOESN'T THAT FREAK YOU OUT!?

...

IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE **HIDING** IT.

WELL...

...SURE.

?!?

UM... CAN I...

...CAN I ASK YOU... WHAT ARE THE DREAMS ABOUT!?

KEEP IN MIND...

...ONE NIGHT'S DREAM DOESN'T START WHERE THE PREVIOUS ONE LEFT OFF.

...SO IT'S SORT OF CHOPPY.

WHY THE SUAVE LOOK ALL OF A SUDDEN?

YEAH.

IT'S KIND OF LIKE...

...WELL...

...LIKE WE'RE BOTH ACCESS-ING THE SAME RANDOM MEMORY!

WE PLAY IT BACK AND WAKE UP...

...NIGHT IN AND NIGHT OUT.

BUT...

...DON'T YOU THINK IT'S RATHER **AMAZING**...

...TO SEE THE **SAME** DREAMS?

HOW DID YOU FIND OUT YOUR DREAMS WERE RELATED, ANYWAY?

WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS IN EIGHTH AND NINTH GRADES, AND WE BOTH LIKED SCIENCE FICTION.

WHEN WE HIT TENTH GRADE...

...WE STARTED NOTICING THE **CONTENT** OF THESE DREAMS WAS STRANGELY **SIMILAR.**

SOME OF OUR DREAMS WERE REALLY FAR OUT...

...SO WE'D TALK ABOUT THEM.

SO WE HIT IT OFF.

WE SAT DOWN AND WENT OVER THE DETAILS.

THERE WERE PEOPLE WITH THE SAME NAMES...

...WHO SAID THE SAME THINGS.

WE KNEW EACH OTHER'S DREAM SELVES.

MY DREAMS ARE FROM A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW THAN ISSEI'S, SO THEY HAVE SUBTLY DIFFERENT CAMERA ANGLES AND STUFF.

...WAS THE **SETTING!** WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THIS YESTERDAY, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE OUR DREAMS TAKE PLACE ABOVE THE EARTH... PROBABLY ON THE MOON...

BUT WHAT CLINCHED IT...

THEY SET DOWN DATA...

...RECORD ALL THE INFO FROM DIFFERENT PLACES- POLITICS, CLIMATE, THAT SORT OF STUFF.

...OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT.

I GUESS THEY OBSERVE THE EARTH...

...AND ENJU, WHO'S ISSEI, ARE AMONG THEM.

THEY'RE A TEAM OF SOME SORT. GYOKURAN, MY ALTER-EGO...

IT'S MANNED BY SEVEN SCIENTISTS.

THERE'S A BASE, OR A LAB OF SOME KIND, ON THE MOON.

AND THEIR JOBS ARE...

...TO WATCH OVER US.

AFTER FIGURING OUT THE KANJI FOR EVERYONE'S NAMES, MOKUREN GREW THOSE PLANTS IN THE GREENHOUSE.

EACH OF THEIR NAMES MATCHES A PLANT IN JAPANESE.

I

THEIR LANGUAGE SOUNDS CLOSER TO JAPANESE THAN CHINESE.

AND THE WAY THEY TALK IS ODD.

I CAN SEE...

...THIS IS A LITTLE TOO MUCH AT ONCE!

OH, SORRY.

THE OTHER FIVE ARE MOKUREN, HIIRAGI, SHUKAIDO, SHION, AND SHUSURAN.

SHE'S ONE OF US, TOO.

"MOKU-REN"...?

SOMEWHAT QUIET, STUDIOUS AND SMART- ALMOST LIKE A TEACHER'S PET. I THINK HE'S AN ARCHEOLO-GIST.

SAY WHAT!?

HE'S KIND OF THE MODEL STUDENT IN EVERY WAY- UNLIKE JINPACHI.

SCRITCH

LET'S START WITH GYOKURAN.

WHAT'S THIS UGLY FACE!?

ISSEI! YOU SUCK!

GYOKURAN

1/4 COLUMN NONSENSE

PART 5

I RECEIVED A LOT OF EMOTIONAL LETTERS ABOUT THE PART IN EPISODE THREE, WHERE ALICE GOES TO SCHOOL AND IS TRYING HARD NOT TO CRY. JINPACHI'S KINDNESS MOVES HER TO TEARS...

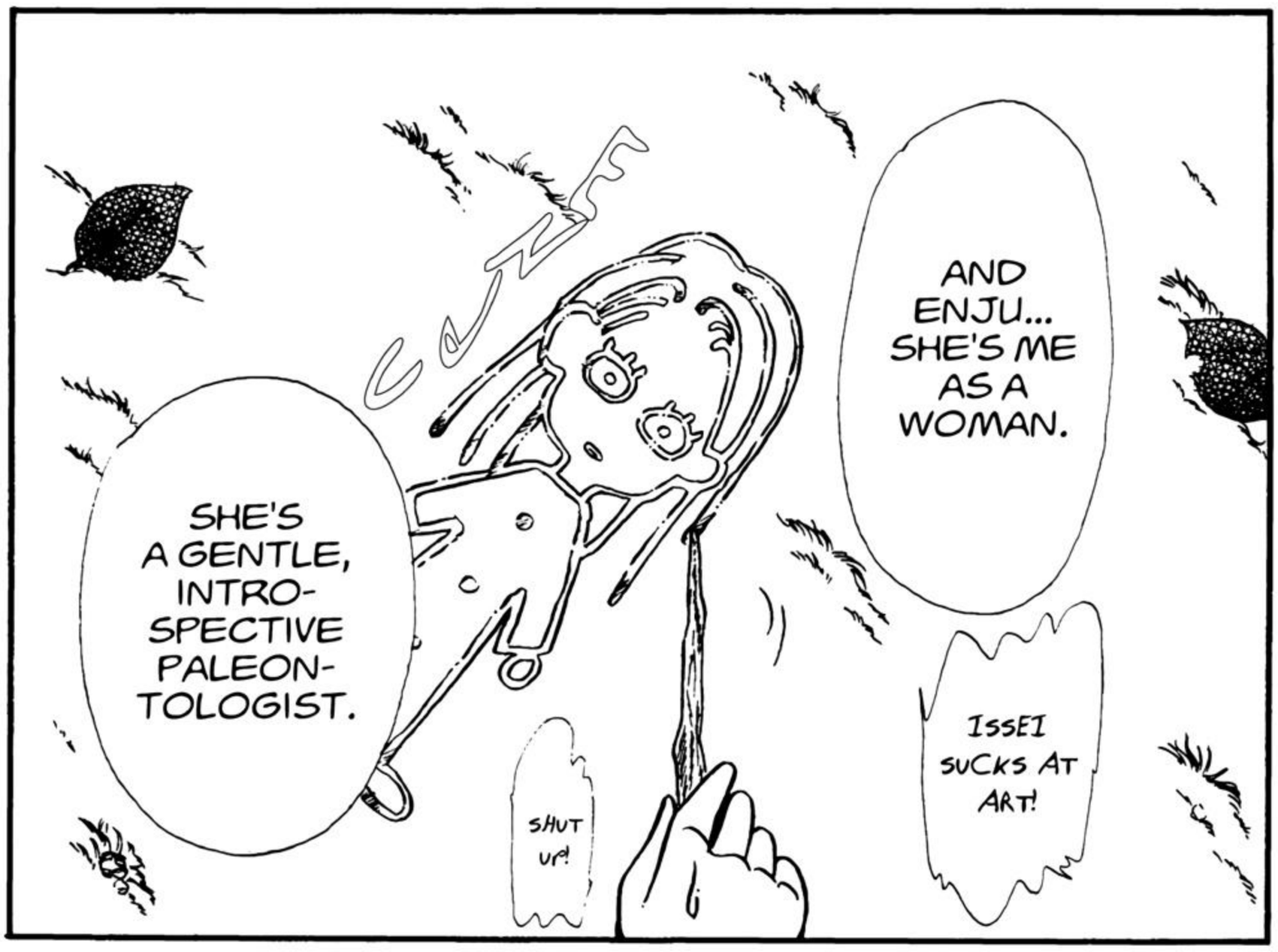
"ALICE ISN'T A CRY-BABY AT ALL. MOST GIRLS WOULDN'T BE SO STRONG," WROTE SOME.

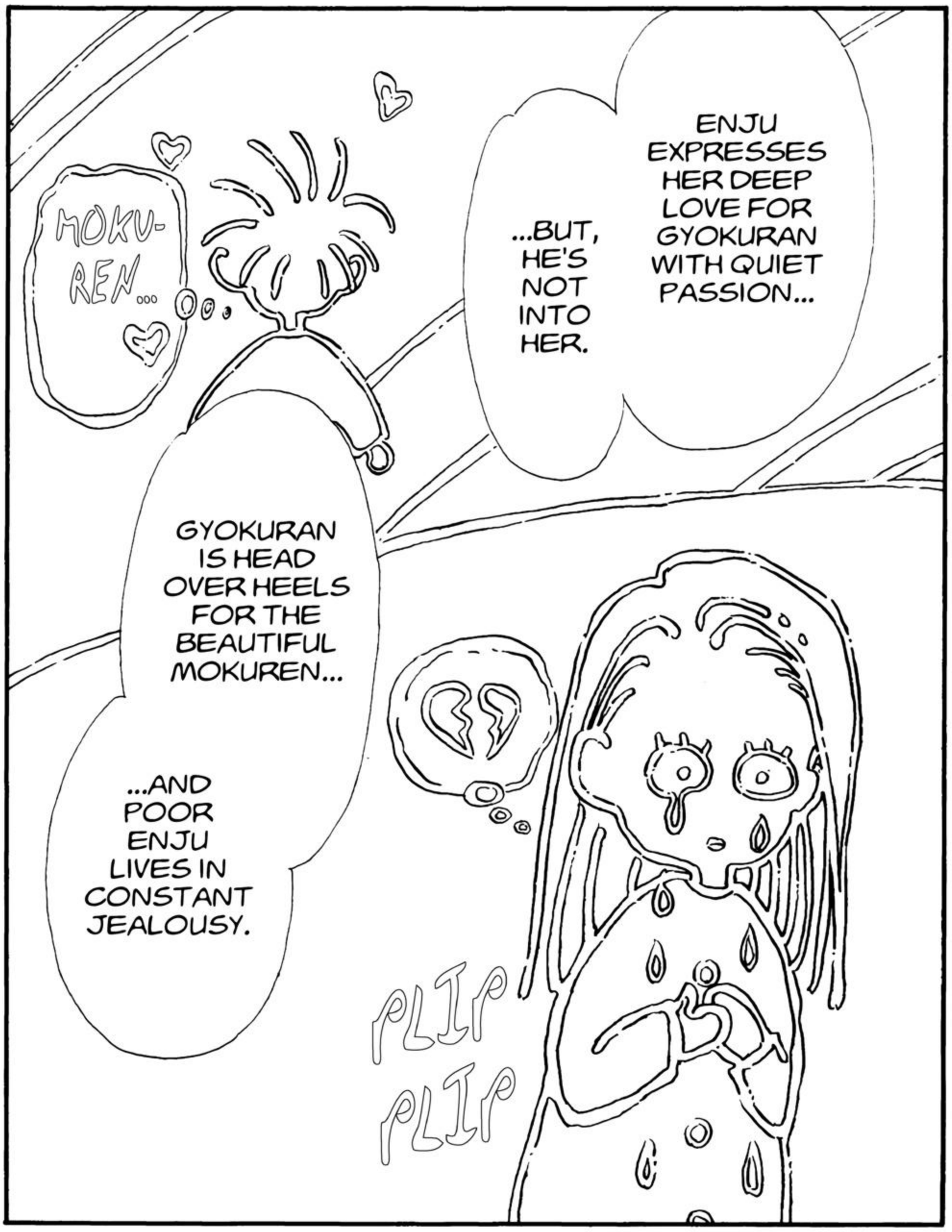
I'D WANTED TO DRAW A LOW-KEY GIRL LIKE ALICE AS A MAIN CHARACTER FOR SOME TIME, BUT I WAS AFRAID THE WHOLE MANGA MIGHT SEEM TOO SUBDUED. SO IT TOOK A WHILE TO TAKE THE PLUNGE.

I'M GLAD THAT I WAS ABLE TO DO IT. AND I'M ALSO HAPPY TO GET LETTERS ADDRESSED TO ALICE, TO CHEER HER UP. HEE, HEE.

OOK AT ME BEING SO SERIOUS.

I'M SUCH A GOOF. BUT REALLY, THANK YOU.





GENTLE, EDUCATED, BUT ALSO FEMININE AND FORGIVING.

GUYS CAN'T HELP BUT FALL IN LOVE WITH HER.

SHE'S A RENOWNED BIOLOGIST, BUT SHE'S NEVER ARROGANT ABOUT WHAT SHE KNOWS.

BEAUTIFUL, INTELLIGENT, ***AND*** WITH A DROP-DEAD FIGURE.

PLUS SHE HAS STRANGE POWERS... SOME KIND OF EXTRA SENSORY PERCEPTION.

THIS MOKUREN IS A MYSTERY, A WOMAN OF GREAT INTRIGUE.

I

HAVING TO COMPETE WITH SOMEONE LIKE MOKUREN IS AWFULLY HARD.

I FEEL SO SORRY FOR ENJU.

AFTER ALL, I'M A GUY IN REAL LIFE.

IT'S NOT HARD TO SEE HER ALLURE.

I

IN LAST NIGHT'S DREAM, MOKUREN GOT ENGAGED...

THERE, THERE.

PAT PAT

AND I WAS A BIG FAN OF HERS!

WAAH!

BUT IT WAS TO **SHION!**

SHION GREW UP WITH GYOKURAN...

...AND SEEMS TO BE AN ENGINEERING GENIUS.

MORON

SHION

HE'S LIKE THE BAD KID IN TOWN.

A BIT OF A BULLY, SHION WANTS HIS OWN WAY.

SHION IS **GENUINE,** AFTER ALL, WITH A SENSE OF JUSTICE. HE'S JUST SOCIALLY AWKWARD...

STILL, I BET HE'S SENSITIVE INSIDE.

I THINK IT'S GIVEN GYOKURAN AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX.

SINCE THEY WERE KIDS, GYOKURAN HAS BEEN SECOND BEST.

WHAT-EVER SHION TRIES TO DO, HE ALWAYS DOES IT WELL.

IT'S LIKE HE'S **TOO** GOOD AT THINGS.

HE'S A MISFIT, JUST CAN'T HELP STICKING HIS FOOT IN HIS MOUTH.

SHION WAS THE KIND TO GO FULL TILT INTO A WALL, TO CRASH AND BURN.

BUT THE ONE THING...

...HE WAS BETTER AT THAN SHION WAS **SOCIAL SKILLS.**

WHAT'S STRIKING IS THE **LOVE** THESE PEOPLE FEEL TOWARD EARTH... THEIR ADORATION...

THE EARTH IS THEIR IDEAL WORLD.

IT'S SO **BLUE.**

JUST LIKE THE GOOD OLD DAYS...

...WHEN THEIR HOME PLANET WAS UNSPOILED, PURE... IDYLLIC.

THAT EMOTION OVERWHELMS THEM, LIKE THE NOSTALGIA WE HUMANS FEEL TOWARD THE GOLDEN AGE.

THEY NEVER TIRE OF JUST WATCHING THE EARTH TURN.

SHUSURAN

AND THEN THERE'S THE TECHNICIAN SHUSURAN.

SHE'S ENJU'S BEST FRIEND.

SCRATCH

THEN THERE'S HIIRAGI, A LINGUIST WHO LEADS THE PROJECT, AND SHUKAIDO, A DOCTOR.

THEY'RE BOTH GUYS, SO IT STANDS TO REASON...

SCRATCH

SHUKAIDO

...THAT THEY **MUST** HAVE BEEN SMITTEN BY MOKUREN.

THEY WERE ALSO SHOCKED TO HEAR OF THE ENGAGE-MENT.

I KNOW... IT'S LIKE SOME COMIC BOOK!

HA HA

HEH

SHE CAN'T SAY A WORD!

WOW!

BBB NNN GGG NNN BBB GGG NNN

WELL, LUNCH-TIME'S OVER.

NO... I WAS JUST AMAZED AT THIS WHOLE DIFFERENT WORLD... SO MANY DETAILS!

OR MAYBE START A DREAM INTERPRE-TATION CLUB!

THAT'S WHAT WE'D LIKE TO BELIEVE, ANYWAY. WE COULD SEARCH.

MAYBE THE OTHER FIVE ARE OUT THERE.

U-UM, SO... WHAT ARE YOU TWO GOING TO DO NOW...?

WHAT WILL WE DO?

BUT WHEN I CATCH A GLIMPSE OF JINPACHI, SITTING DIAGONALLY IN FRONT OF ME...

...ALL SORTS OF NAUGHTY THINGS POP INTO MY HEAD!

SUCH AN AMAZING STORY...

DRAMATIC ROSE

PLEASE, GYOKURAN! WON'T YOU...

...LOOK AT ME?

GYO-KURAN!

OH! SOB!

WHY? IS IT THAT I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH?

SOB

MY SWEET ENJU...

...I'M SORRY I HURT YOU...

SUCH NAUGHTY FANTASIES.

BUT I CAN'T HELP IT.

GYOKURAN!

S-STOP IT, ALICE.

WE'RE IN CLASS.

STOP IT, I SAID!

CAN I HELP IT IF I FIT IN THE FACES I KNOW?

I MEAN, **THEY** SEE THE REAL GYOKURAN AND ENJU'S FACES IN THEIR DREAMS...

...BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE! I CAN'T IMAGINE THEM!

THE OTHER DAY...

...WHEN HE HELD ME CLOSE...

JINPACHI...

HE WAS JUST TRYING TO CHEER ME UP...

...BECAUSE I'M SUCH A CRYBABY.

HE DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING ELSE...

OHMIGOD! WHAT AM I THINKING!?

IT WOULD BE WEIRD TO HAVE ISSEI AS A RIVAL SUITOR... OR MAYBE NOT...

ALICE.

OF COURSE HE DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT! WHAT AM I THINKING!?

HE... HE'S SO NICE...

YOU HAVE A CALL FROM YOUR MOM.

TAKE IT IN THE STAFF ROOM.

ALICE!

IS IT ABOUT RIN?

WHAT CAN IT BE?

WHAT IF... HE MADE A TURN FOR THE WORSE!?

RIN!

HE WOKE UP!

RIN HAS REGAINED CONSCIOUS-NESS!

HE'S OUT OF HIS COMA!

YOU CAN LEAVE SCHOOL EARLY, ALICE.

HURRY STRAIGHT TO THE HOSPITAL!

...

SHE'S NOT MAD AT YOU. SHE WANTS TO APOLOGIZE!

BUT... RIN'S MOM...

IT'S OKAY!

ISN'T IT WONDERFUL, ALICE!?

OH, GOD...!

FSSH

TSSH

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

SNF

SNF

SHSSS

NORTH STAR HOSPITAL

WHAT WAS THAT? ARE YOU PLAYING "INTUITION" AGAIN?

EVER SINCE HE WOKE UP...

TEE HEE

AH!

ALICE! SHE'S HERE.

UP.

UP THE STAIRS.

SHE'S SO SILLY. SHE **COULD** HAVE USED THE ELEVA-TOR.

OOPS! LOOK OUT, ALICE!

SHE TRIPPED. HEH, HEH...

10 MORE METERS...

...TO MY ROOM.



NOW I.

5.

3 MORE STEPS...

CHAK


あ…

I KNOW THEY'LL LAST FOREVER.

...FOREVER.

WOULD YOU TAKE ME TO THE ZOO AGAIN?

THESE MEMORIES WILL STAY WITH ME...

..AND THE BLUE, BLUE SKIES THAT DAY.

THE WORDS RIN WHISPERED IN MY EAR...

SURE THING, MOM.

WHERE'S ALICE?

COULD YOU GET HER?

HA-JIME!

HEY, ALICE!

DINNER'S HERE!

I THOUGHT SHE'D BE THERE.

...I SEE HER.

OH...

SHE'S TALKING WITH THE TREES.

I BET SHE'S THANKING THEM.

WHY?

THERE'S NO POINT CALLING HER FOR A WHILE.

HAJIME, WHERE IS SHE?

WILL SHE EVER GROW OUT OF THEM?

THAT GIRL! SUCH BIZARRE FANCIES.

LET'S JUST START WITHOUT HER...

WHAT IS IT, DEAR?

WHEN THE LEAVES RUSTLE WITHOUT A BREEZE...

...THAT'S USUALLY A SIGN...

...I'VE ENVIED HER THAT. SO SPECIAL...

EVER SINCE I WAS LITTLE...

...THAT MY SISTER IS NEARBY, TALKING WITH NATURE.

HEY!

HI!

GOOD NEWS!

DID YOU HEAR?

YEAH, THAT KID CAME OUT OF HIS COMA...

...

I MEAN...

...THAT POOR GIRL, ALICE.

SHE WAS ALWAYS BY HER-SELF...

I FEEL SAD NOW.

DO YOU THINK WE WERE A BIT...

... CHILD-ISH?

BUT IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO!

YEAH...

...JUST BECAUSE THE LITTLE BOY GOT BETTER?

...ISN'T IT KIND OF WISHY-WASHY, TO BE FRIENDS WITH HER AGAIN...

I GUESS.

BUT...

KINDA SAD.

I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD GO ON LIKE THIS.

IT'S LIKE WE'RE OSTRACIZING HER AS A GROUP.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO STARTED IT.

WE WERE ALL IGNORING HER. WE'RE ALL GUILTY.

WHO SAID ALL THOSE BAD THINGS ABOUT HER?

BUT IT **IS** BEING MEAN.

I FEEL BAD, TOO!

I DON'T THINK SO.

WE'RE NOT BEING **MEAN.**

IT'S NOT LIKE WE DID IT ON **PURPOSE.**

H.S.S.H...

SHE'S STILL NEW HERE.

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW...

...WHERE SHE'S BEEN EATING HER LUNCH EVERY DAY.

SHE MUST HAVE FELT SO SCARED...

...ALL ALONE.

SIGH

OKAY.

SO WHY NOT SAY YOU'RE SORRY?

EASY THERE, YOSHIKAWA, I'M SPOKEN FOR!

FWIP

SNF

SNF

IT'LL BE **EASY**! YES! LET'S ALL APOLOGIZE!

THIS... THIS IS **LIFE**!

IF YOU GIRLS ALL DO IT AS A GROUP...

BWA HA HA HA

.....

YOUTH... IT'S THE LIGHT... MY HOPE... LET'S BURN ANOTHER STICK!

...IT WON'T BE SO HARD.

TMP TMP

TMP TMP

WHY ON A DAY LIKE THIS, OF ALL DAYS!?

OH, NO! I'M **LATE!**

BONG BONG BONG

I WANT TO TELL THE CAMELLIAS WHAT HAPPENED... AND **THANK** THEM!

THERE'S STILL FIVE MINUTES BEFORE HOMEROOM!

OOH!

PHEW!

I'LL MAKE A DASH TO THE GARDEN.

OKAY!

LET'S JUST DO IT!

WHAT DO WE DO!?

I... ...I DON'T KNOW!

L... LOOK!

SHE'S HERE!

YEAH.

QUICK!

C'MON, GIRLS! **NOW!**

HEY! IS SHE ABOUT TO GO?

GOOD MORNING, ALICE! WE'RE SORRY!!

1/4 COLUMN NONSENSE

PART 6

WHAT CAME AS A HUGE SURPRISE WERE THE LETTERS FROM PEOPLE WHO COULD ACTUALLY TALK TO TREES AND FLOWERS. SO IT'S TRUE...!

SOME SAID THAT THEY ACTUALLY TALK BACK WITH WORDS, AND OTHERS WROTE THAT THEY GET MORE OF A FEELING, LIKE ALICE. SOME TREES WILL TELL THEM STORIES ABOUT THE PAST, EVEN...

HMM! I DON'T KNOW IF I SHOULD FEEL JEALOUS OR NOT...

I'D ASSUMED THAT IN THE CITY, YOU'D HEAR THE PAINFUL WAILING OF THE TREES, BUT THEY SAID IT'S THE OPPOSITE—CITY TREES ARE JUST QUIET. THEY KEEP TO THEMSELVES AND CONCENTRATE ON SHEER SURVIVAL.

I FELT A LITTLE PANG IN MY CHEST WHEN I READ THAT. WHATEVER SHOULD WE DO...?

PFFT

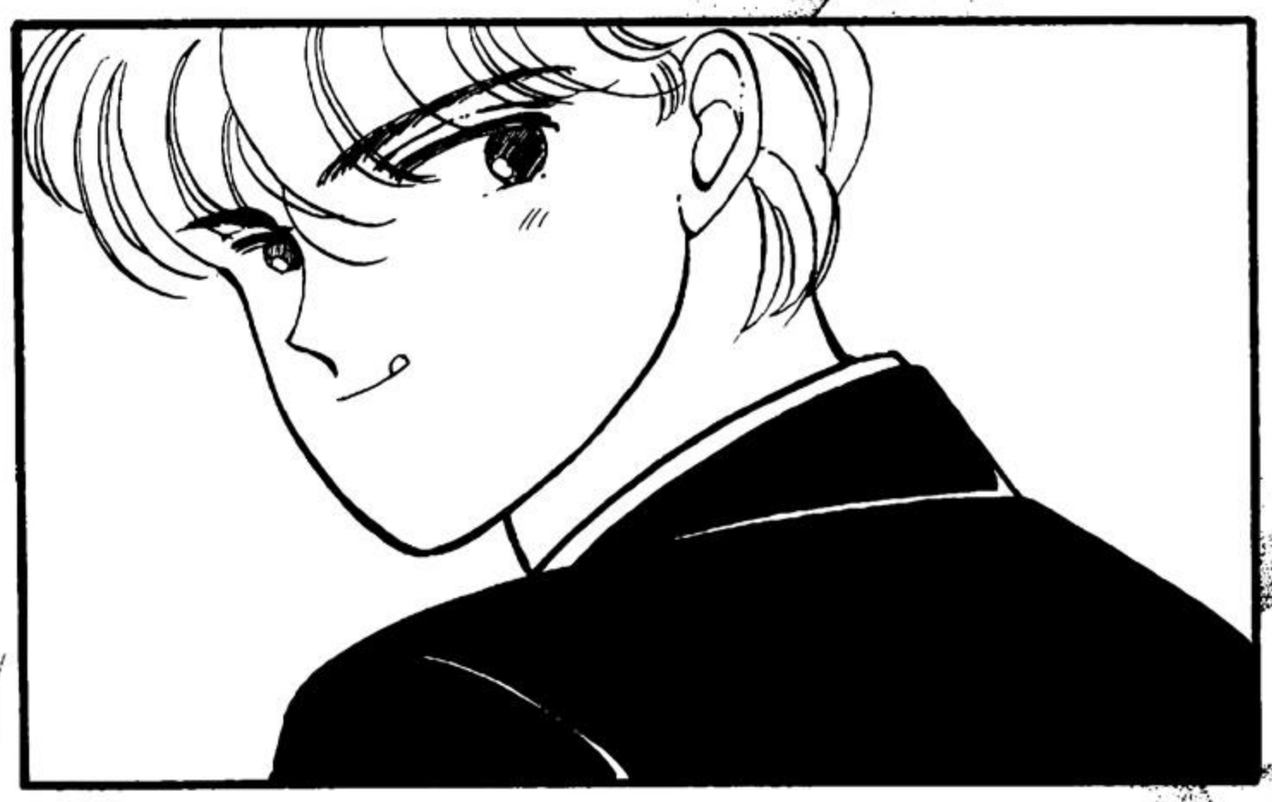
SH- SHUT UP!

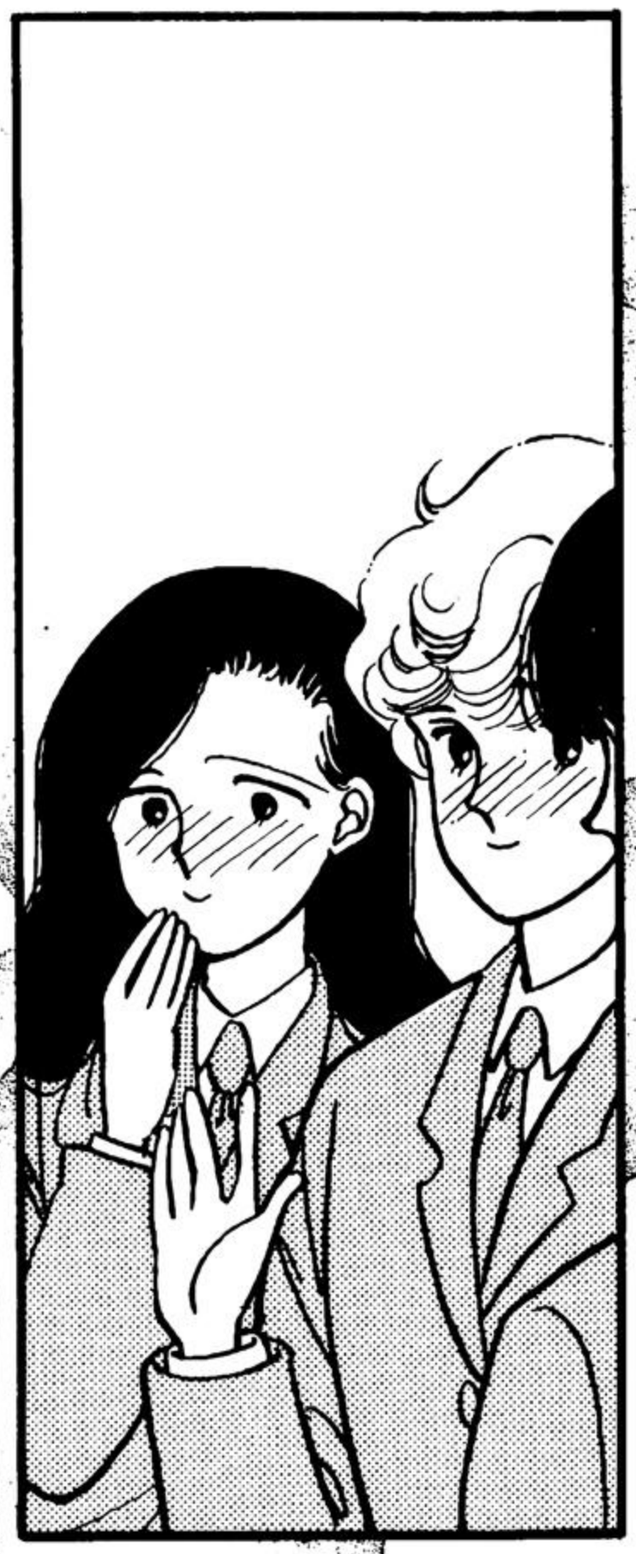
"JR. HIGH DIARIES!?

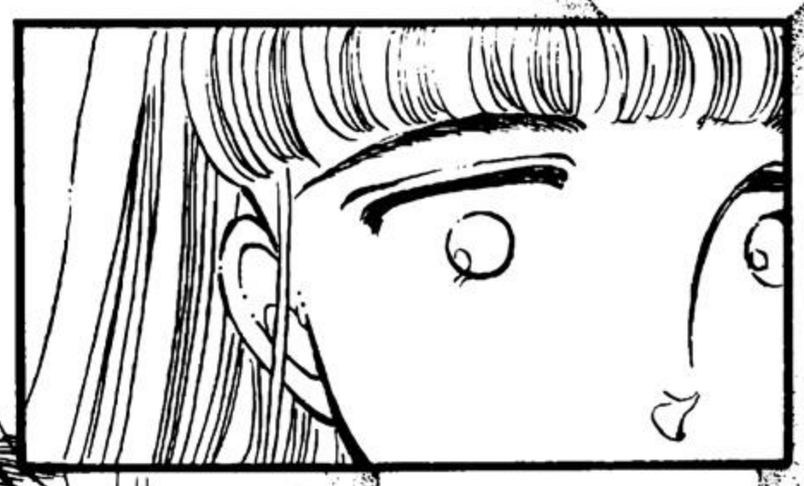
GRR!

THEY DID IT! WHAT IS THIS

HA, HA, HA!











I CAN HEAR THEIR VOICES...

"WE'RE SO HAPPY FOR YOU."

"WE'RE SO HAPPY FOR YOU."

...IN THE GARDEN.

...THE CAMELLIAS...

SO THAT'S WHY...

...SHE'S NOT HAVING HER PICNIC HERE TODAY.

YUP.

SHE'S EATING AND CHATTING WITH THE OTHER GIRLS IN CLASS.

REALLY?

GOSH!

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR.

...IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US TODAY... GYOKU-RAN.

THAT'S RIGHT, ENJU.

IN THAT CASE...

CHAK

YES?

...OH!

DING DONG

AS IF! BWA HA HA HA!

FUP FUP

I HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPT-ING...

FUP FUP

WHY...

HELLO! PLEASE, COME IN!

OH.

WE'RE THINKING THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.

NOT AT ALL! WHEN IS RIN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL?

HERE I AM JUST GOING ON!

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU TODAY?

I'M GLAD THIS TURNED OUT OKAY...

YOU DON'T SAY!

I'M SO RELIEVED.

YES. ME, TOO.

RIN, THAT IS, HE WANTS...

ALICE AS HIS WIFE.

...SO, YOU SEE...

WELL...

...YOU SEE...

?

WELL...

...I'M NOT SURE HOW TO PUT THIS...

HE...

...HE TOLD US LAST NIGHT.

YES? GO ON.

UM... THIS IS VERY... **DIFFICULT** TO SAY...

AND...

SAY WHAT!?

...WE JUST DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

FUP FUP

...SO HERE I AM.

I'VE COME TO ASK YOU...

...WHAT YOU WOULD DO...

WHAT IS HAPPINESS?

WHAT IS HAPPINESS? TO HAVE PONZU DIPPING SAUCE!

*EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS STORY TAKES PLACE IN TOKYO, 1991.

TONIGHT'S DINNER IS ODEN. ODEN! O-ODEN!

THAT'S THE SOUND OF "RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS."

BUT I DON'T HAVE TO PANIC ANYMORE...

RIN MUST BE HERE!

FWSH FASH

FWSH FASH FWSH

RIN!

FWIP

OH, ALICE! HOW YOU'VE GROWN!

NOW I CAN EVEN FEEL FONDNESS TOWARD HIM.

WHEN DO YOU HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL?

SHOONATCH!

HI, ALICE!

IN TWO MORE DAYS!

FASH

FWSH FASH

I BET YOU ARE!

DOES THAT MEAN YOU SAID YES?

THAT'S BECAUSE I'M VERY HAPPY!

AAH!

YOU SEEM TO BE IN A GOOD MOOD TODAY.

FWSH FASH

CHOMP CHOMP

URK

COULD YOU PLEASE BEND DOWN A LITTLE?

DON'T WORRY. I'M NOT GOING TO BE MEAN.

CHMP CHMP

FSH TSH

...HUH? YES TO WHAT?

SKTCH

HERE'S MY GUM.

?

COULD YOU LEAN DOWN A BIT MORE?

SMOOCH!

GYAH!

TIP TUP

TIP TUP

I...

...I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, ALICE.

FSSH

TAKE IT EASY. AFTER ALL...

TEE HEE

SEE!

...I WAS CHEWING SPEARMINT GUM JUST FOR THE OCCASION.

GAH!

FWSH
FASH

MY FUTURE BETTER HALF!

LATER!

FWSH

OH.

OH, NO!

DON'T TELL ME...

OH, NO! WHAT IF IT IS?

I- I JUST DON'T GET IT.

WHAT IS **WITH** THAT KID?

THE FALL?

COULD IT BE... **BRAIN DAMAGE!?**

...THAT...

...WAS MY FIRST KISS!



THERE YOU ARE.

OH.

ALICE.

WHAT IS IT?

GURG GURG GURG GURG GURG

COME HERE WHEN YOU'RE DONE GARGLING.

I WANT TO TALK TO YOU.

?

I DON'T WANT TO BEAT AROUND THE BUSH.

SO I'LL ASK YOU STRAIGHT, ALICE.

...

DO YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST IN BEING ENGAGED TO RIN?

OH, THAT GIRL!

ALICE! ARE YOU OKAY?

FADE TO BLACK...

B- BUT...

...WHAT WOULD **YOU** HAVE SAID?

I **TOLD** YOU TO BREAK IT TO HER **GENTLY**!

NOW LOOK- SHE'S **FAINTED**!

OH, GOD...

...THIS IS TOO MUCH!

...WAY TOO MUCH...

...

...REN...!

...シィン!...

MOKU REN!

YOU WERE OUT COLD. IS YOUR HEAD ALL RIGHT?

I FEEL SO LOST.

WH... WHAT?

WH... WHERE AM I?

YOU CAN BE SUCH A **KLUTZ** SOMETIMES...

GAVE ME A START!

YES. YOU TRIPPED ON THE STAIRS AND FELL OVER...

I... I'M NOT SURE. DID YOU SEE?

THAT'S NOT BAD THEN.

AH... WELL...

JUST MUSSED UP MY HAIR IS ALL.

SEE?

I SEEM TO BE OKAY.

I NEED A MIRROR.

HOLD ON... I'LL FIX MY HAIR.

...?

SHION, DID MY FACE **ALWAYS** LOOK LIKE THIS?

SHION! I'M "MOKUREN," NOT "MOKU REN." PRONOUNCE IT THE JAPANESE WAY!

DID YOU HIT YOUR HEAD TOO HARD?

ARE YOU OKAY, MOKU REN?

SILLY! YOU'RE SUCH A JAPAN NUT.

I JUST LOVE JAPAN.

THAT I AM!

YOU KNOW, SHION.

I HAD A DREAM WHILE I WAS OUT.

IT WAS SO CUTE.

I HAD BECOME AN EARTH-LING, IN JAPAN.

A GIRL.

I HAD BLACK HAIR.

TEE, HEE!

AND A TINY LITTLE BUTTON NOSE.

I HAD FRIENDS.

I WAS A CRY-BABY.

BEST OF ALL...

...MY FRIENDS TOLD ME ABOUT **ME**, MOKUREN!

AND I WAS AWED BY THE STORY.

THERE WAS NATURE ALL AROUND ME.

I COULD **FEEL** THE ATMOS-PHERE.

IT'S SO PURE, SO BLUE.

...YOU KNOW WHAT?

I WISH...

...I'D BEEN BORN ON EARTH.

AND THEN...

...I WOULD MAKE YOU SOME "ODEN."

FOR DINNER TO-NIGHT...

...SO BLUE...

...KEEP WATCH OVER EARTH... FROM HERE...

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO...

WAP

ALICE, ARE YOU OKAY!?

ALICE!

WAP

ALICE!

JNG!

I HOPE SHE'S OKAY!

HON?

...

UM... YES...?

OOF...

DOHHH

...

...HMM?

DO YOU REMEMBER...

...WHAT MOM SAID?

1/4 COLUMN NONSENSE

PART 7

MORE ABOUT CITY TREES...

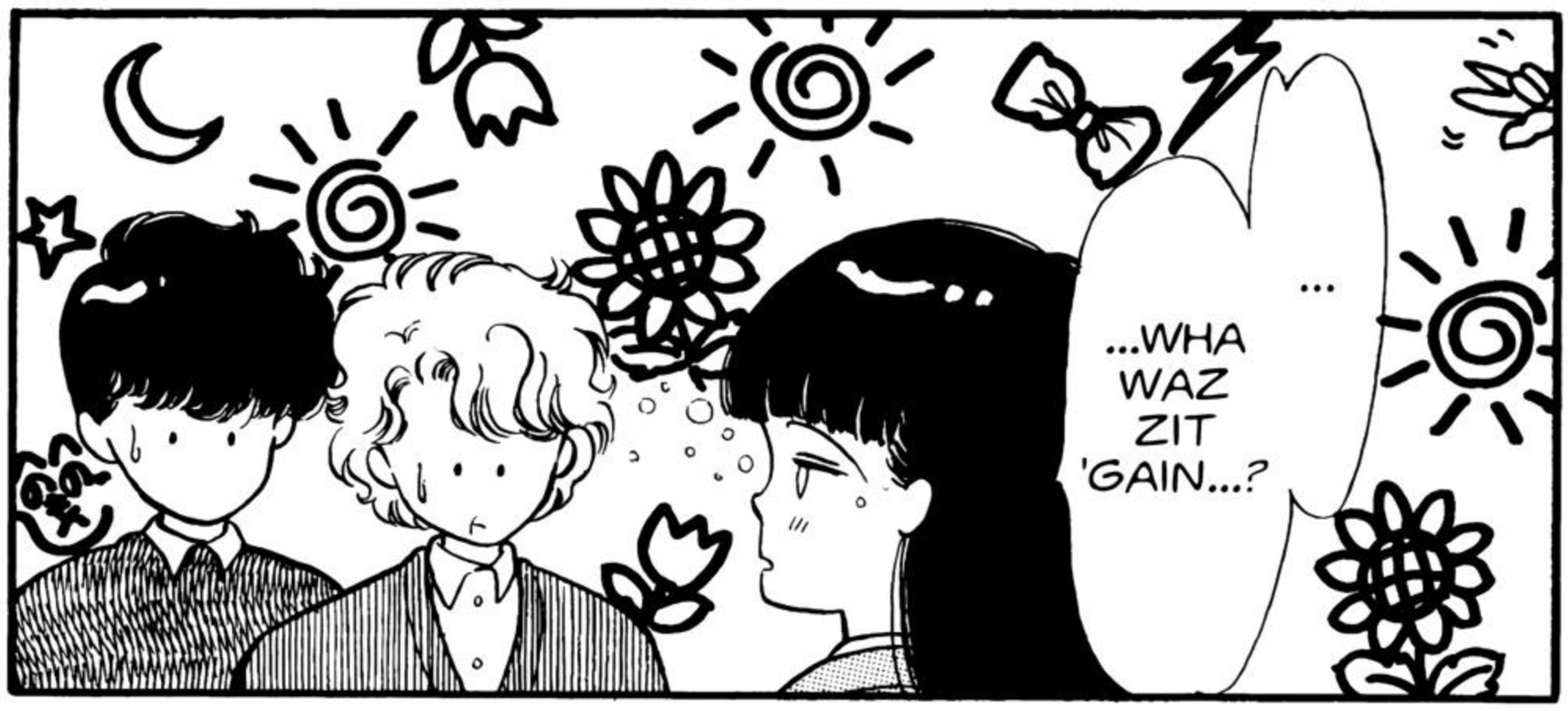
THIS IS PROBABLY BECAUSE I WAS FEELING SAD FOR THE TREES IN THE CITY, BUT I HAD A DREAM THE OTHER DAY THAT THEY WERE ALL SINGING IN A CHORUS. I WAS SO EXCITED AND HAPPY, AND THEN I WOKE UP.

WASN'T THERE A SCENE IN "ALICE IN WONDERLAND" WHERE THE FLOWERS WERE SINGING? ♡

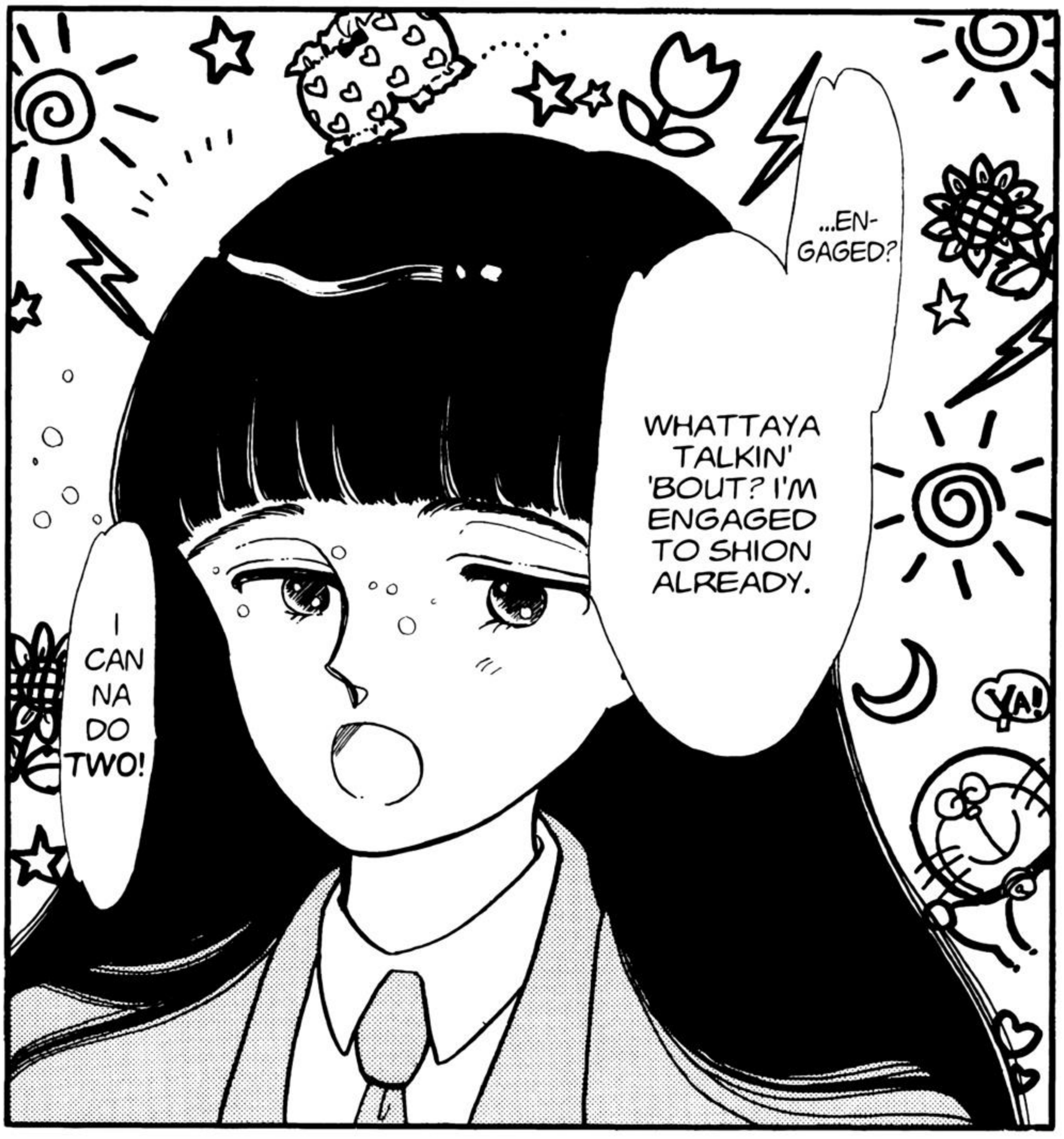
"ALICE" IS IN VOGUE LATELY. THERE'S BEEN SOME MAGAZINE FEATURE ARTICLES ON IT AND STUFF. WELL, WE HAVE AN ALICE HERE, TOO! ♡ HA, HA, HA.

EVERYONE, KEEP YOUR FEET ON THE GROUND AND KEEP REACHING FOR THE STARS! TAKE CARE! SEE YOU LATER!

5/13/1987







OOMF

I'M REALLY TIRED, SO I'M GONNA GO DIE NOW.

HUH?

SIAM

I FEEL...

...SO **SAD** ALL OF A SUDDEN.

PLIP

STRANGE...

WHY DO I FEEL THIS WAY?

BAWL

WAAH!

...

OH WELL. I'LL JUST HAVE A GOOD CRY.

SOBS

HIC

HONK

SNF

YEAH.

SHE MUST REALLY HATE THE IDEA...

SO, RIN...

...I WAS THINKING- THIS THING WITH ALICE... IT'S A BIG STEP.

MAYBE YOU SHOULD WAIT UNTIL YOU'VE GROWN UP A LITTLE BEFORE YOU GET ENGAGED.

FWIP

WHAT IF SOME **WEIRDO** STEALS ALICE AWAY WHILE I SIT TWIDDLING MY THUMBS?

NO WAY!

UH-OH

I... I'LL...

WAA AHH!!

OKAY, OKAY. I UNDER-STAND, RIN.

IT WILL BE ALL RIGHT.

YOU MUST REALLY LOVE ALICE.

SNF

SNF

OKAY. I WILL, MOM.

GOOD-NIGHT.

NOW...

...BE A GOOD BOY AND GO TO BED.

CLIK

IT...

...IT'S RIN...

WHAT IS IT?

...I'M A LITTLE WORRIED...

DEAR... I...

...

HE'S GOTTEN SO...

STUBBORN ALL OF A SUDDEN.

HE'S JUST NOT HIS OLD SELF.

WHP

CHK

01:37

FWING

STMP

A PERFECT TEN!

HEH HEH

KRRRRRRAAAA

MMMMM

KRRRRRR

RRRR


!
KRRRR
ちちち
SHAAA

RRM

WATCH IT, MORON!

RRM

VROOM

FAP

!?

FAP!!!

FIP

FP

BROOOO

VROOM VROOM

S-S-S-SOME-BODY!

HELP!

GET THIS DAMN THING OFFA ME!

!?

KRRR

WRP

SPLSH SPLSH

AH...

AH...

AAAA

I HAVE A LOT OF FAVORS TO ASK OF YOU.

WILL YOU HELP ME?

YOU SEE...

...THERE'S SOME-THING I'VE BEEN WANTING.

CHK

I'M S.

WILL YOU BE MY FRIEND?

CHK

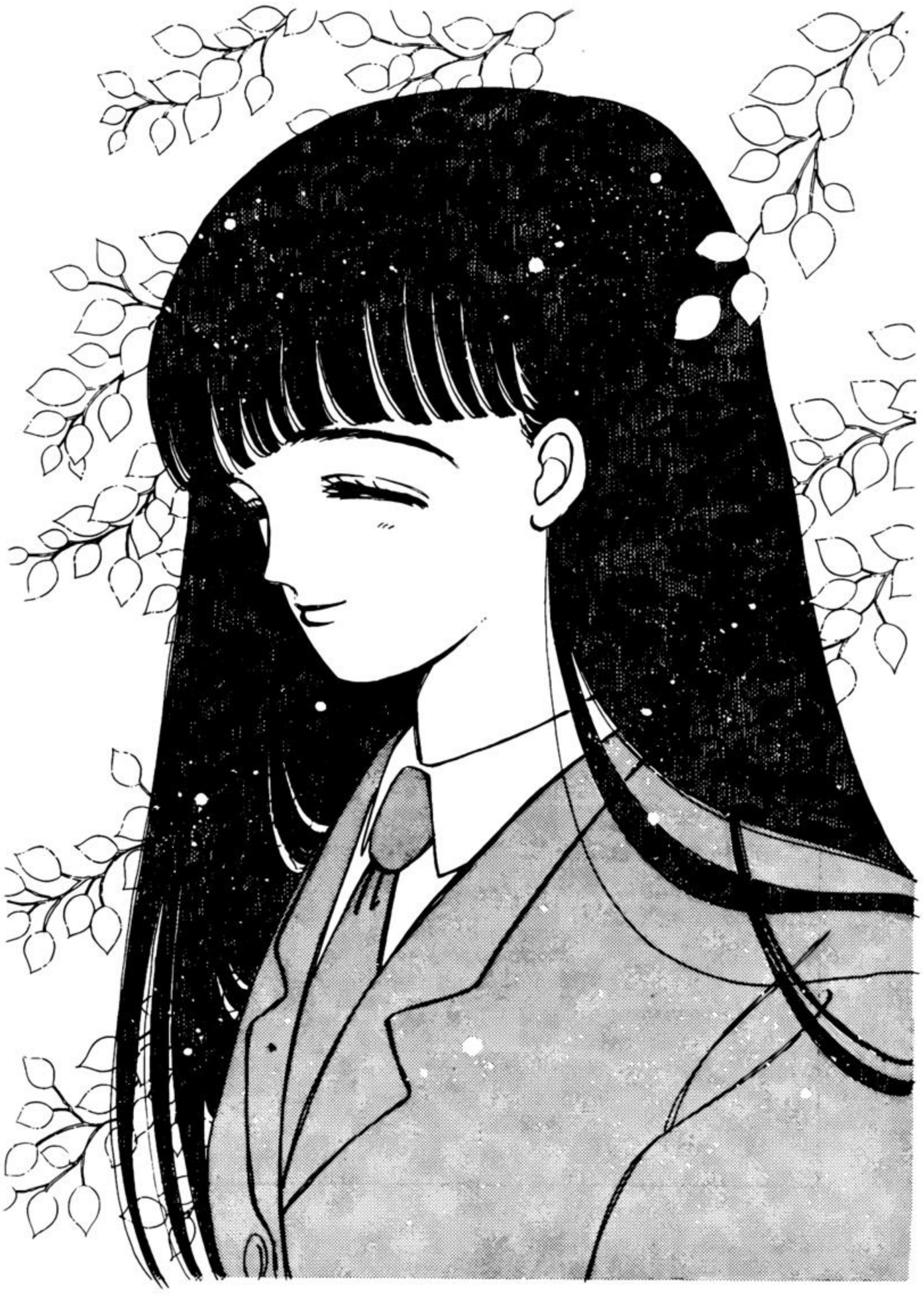
CHAKKA

CHK

CHK

TOKYO TOWER.

CAN YOU GIVE IT TO ME?



Editor's comments

When a manga includes pop-culture details, the translation team must either decide to leave them as is, potentially causing reader confusion, or replace them with contemporary equivalents, causing purists to gripe. There's just no pleasing everyone...

In this volume, two advertising jingles and an anime theme song are referenced. Since there was no way to use contemporary English equivalents for the ads, we chose to leave them and explain them here.

The first is when Jinpachi convinces his female classmates to apologize for ostracizing Alice after Rin's fall. Someone jokes, "Youth, it's the light, my hope. Let's burn another stick!" as Mariko holds a bundle of smoking incense. Huh? It turns out there was a commercial in the early 1990s for an incense called "Seiun," but in the jingle, it sounded like "seishun," meaning "youth." Kind of silly, but there you go.

More obvious is the jingle Alice sings on the way home from school after Rin's recovery. Even the Japanese editor felt the need to comment on it, a cheerful tune about ponzu sauce. This leads us to the subject of food, which I love to discuss...but I'm running out of space! For now, consider looking up anything curious in a Japanese cookbook from a library or bookstore.

The anime theme is from the classic Uchusenkan Yamato (a.k.a. *Star Blazers*) and is sung by the dinosaurs. Since there is an English equivalent, we used it!

The last must-mention tidbit is the tune Rin's mom sings while leaving for her chorale recital. It's neither Japanese nor English. So what is it? It's German! Specifically, it's from Robert Schumann's *Zigeunderleben* (Gypsy Life), which is apparently popular for choirs in Japan.

So much singing–could it be singing is somehow important to the story...?

If you enjoyed *Please Save My Earth*, you might enjoy these:

A, A'
Unicorns are a low-emotion species genetically engineered for space travel. They're also the thread used to string together the science fiction stories of *A, A'* (a.k.a. *A, A Prime*) by legendary shôjo artist Moto Hagio. There are no hostile aliens or epic battles in this collection. Instead, Hagio explores the possible impact of such futuristic technologies as cloning and genetic manipulation through the touching stories of her characters.

Short Program
This collection of modern-day stories is filled with the quiet drama of everyday people. What happens at a reunion when Kazuhiko hasn't seen his close friends in years? Will Takechi ever have the nerve to ask out that cute girl he passes every day? Has Naomi finally found a decent boyfriend in the guy next door? Mitsuru Adachi's masterful storytelling creates tales that are thoroughly engaging and full of interesting twists.

Ceres: Celestial Legend
By Yû Watase, creator of *Fûshigi Yugi*, *Ceres* is the gripping saga of a girl whose past-life returns to tear her present-life apart. On her sixteenth birthday, Aya receives a foul gift–a mummified hand. It awakens Ceres, the powerful celestial being residing within Aya. Aya's body acts as a host to Ceres and as such her family wants her dead. Even with the help of unexpected allies, Aya might not survive to uncover the mystical mysteries behind her family's twisted past.

Flower Talk

In Japan, flowers have a lot of meaning, and PLEASE SAVE MY EARTH uses a lot of flowers, including the names of the moon dream characters. Although Saki Hiwatari claims any significance is coincidental, we thought we should give our readers a little insight into the story's many beautiful blossoms. Alice knows her flowers–now you can, too!



ASTER [find image on p. 119, pp3-4]
Loved by gardeners for its ability to grow in poor soil, there are many varieties of aster. The Japanese name for the aster is "shion," which is why it shows up while Jinpachi and Issei are talking about Shion!

CAMELLIA [p39, 146, 147]
The flowers that are "nice" to Alice at school represent discretion and modesty in Japan. Interestingly, the camellia's habit of dropping its blooms all at once, instead of petal by petal, is considered reminiscent of a head being cut off. So the Camellia can also represent untimely death.





CROCUS [p81, 1]
These flowers appear in Alice's dream of Rin falling for obvious reasons. An international favorite for kids to grow on their windowsills, this flower that "Speaks no evil" also represents longing and youthful rejoicing.

LILY MAGNOLIA [p47, 118]
The elegant flowers of the lily magnolia blossom before its leaves come out. This variety is called "mokuren" in Japanese. That's why it'll keep showing up in conversations about Mokuren! In Japan, the lily magnolia represents a love of nature.





LILY OF THE VALLEY [p23]
These sweet-smelling little flowers are hardier than they look. Left unchecked, they'll overrun the shady parts of a garden! Representing integrity, innocence and the return of happiness, the lily of the valley flowers appear when Alice is crying herself to sleep.



PEONY [p18, p1; 153]
It's hard to believe such big, bold flowers represent bashfulness in Japan. It's harder still when Hiwatari uses them for the exuberant arrival of the ribbon-swishing Rin as he enters the scene with a rhythmic gymnastic leap and an Ultraman shout!



PLUM BLOSSOM [p29, p4]
Representing purity, loyalty and honesty, these spring blooms also carry a sense of youth and masculinity. That's why they're perfect for Jinpachi's "precious beauty of youth" moment and as an example of how flowers aren't just for women. After all, the ancient art of ikebana (Japanese flower arranging) was invented by a monk and perpetuated by samurai!

With the exception of asters, all of these flowers bloom in spring, which is when this volume takes place.